



SEASON 21

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of
Love

JULY 2-20, 2025

VAL UNDERWOOD, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



21ST ANNIVERSARY SEASON
HAWAII
PERFORMING
ARTS Festival



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Table of Contents

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	4
ABOUT HPAF	5
SUPPORT THE ARTS	6
MAHALOS	7
HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INITIATIVE	10
EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT	10
THE HPAF LEGACY	11
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	12
ADMINISTRATION	14
FACULTY ARTISTS	20
PRODUCTION TEAM	27
ORCHESTRA	29
GUEST ARTISTS	41
PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS	43
DEVELOPING SINGERS	46
HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS	63
OHANA SINGERS	66

MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS



From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

This year marks my 12th season with Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival—and our 21st as an organization. Yes, we're legal now! What began in 2005 as a bold artistic experiment on Hawai'i Island has grown into a world-renowned training and performance program, cultivating the next generation of artists while enriching our community through the universal language of musical storytelling.

From in-home concerts and intimate masterclasses in our early years, HPAF has evolved into a vibrant, multi-genre festival that draws talent from around the world and shares it with audiences across the Big Island. This summer, we're raising a glass to our legacy, to the artists and audiences who've made it all possible, and to the bright, innovative future ahead. What once was a dream to bring world-class music to Hawai'i has become an annual tradition filled with opera, musical theatre, jazz, chamber music, and community.

On a personal note, I'm honored to share that this past November, I was named one of Hawaii's Most Admired Leaders by Pacific Business News. This recognition reflects not just my own journey, but the collective strength of the HPAF Ohana. It belongs to our community, our collaborators, and everyone who has believed in this Festival from the very beginning.

We have an exhilarating summer in store. From bold new productions to returning favorites, we continue to offer unmatched educational opportunities for emerging artists. This year, we're especially proud to welcome talent from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Singapore, and the United Kingdom—a testament to the international reach and growing reputation of HPAF as a world-class destination for artistic training and cultural exchange.

Of course, none of this would be possible without your generosity and enthusiasm. If you're inspired by what you see on our stages this summer, I invite you to consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our mission. And perhaps just as important: bring a friend. Let them experience the magic of live performance under Hawaiian skies—and the spirit of community that makes HPAF unlike any other festival in the world.

With heartfelt aloha and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin John Moniz". The script is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Justin John Moniz
Executive Director
Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival

ABOUT HAWAI‘I PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL



Now in its 21st season, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival (HPAF) continues to bring some of the most talented young musicians from Hawai‘i, the U.S., Canada, Australia, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South America, and Europe to Hawai‘i Island each summer for intensive study and performance training. This transformative program gives emerging artists the rare opportunity to perform alongside seasoned professionals, under the mentorship of some of the world’s most renowned educators and performers. The results are consistently inspiring.

The 2024 Summer Festival was a vibrant celebration of musical excellence, featuring nearly 20 concerts and fully staged performances across a variety of venues on Hawai‘i Island. Students performed in operas, chamber music concerts, vocal recitals, and special events, gaining invaluable stage experience while engaging deeply with their craft. Highlights included acclaimed productions of classic and contemporary works, and enthusiastic

community response underscored HPAF’s growing cultural impact.

Past seasons continue to shape the festival’s legacy. The 2021 Summer Festival, *The Journey Back*, marked a return to live performance with four in-person concerts. In 2020, the Virtual Festival brought 14 free concerts, masterclasses, and special events to audiences worldwide, ensuring continued access to high-quality programming during the pandemic.

HPAF fundraising events have featured unforgettable appearances by artists such as Jake Shimabukuro, Ofra Harnoy, Stanford University’s Fleet Street Singers, Liane Carroll, Ignace Jang, and the original production *An Evening at the Stork Club*.

As we look ahead to the 2025 season, HPAF remains deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of performing artists while enriching the cultural landscape of Hawai‘i Island and beyond.

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.

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Mahalo

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Ernest Pinson
Dr. Rachel Copeland & Mr. Scott Skiba
Val Underwood
Lisa Wells

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Olivia Ebrahimi, Lead
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*All gifts received prior to June 10 in support of our 2025 Festival have been acknowledged above.
Gifts received following this date will be recognized via the HPAF website.*



LŪ'AU

Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and history of Hawai'i Island, with traditional island cuisine, storytelling, and the spirit of Aloha. Experience the island's heart and soul in a sensory-filled evening, leaving you with memories to last a lifetime.



Where your perfect night begins.

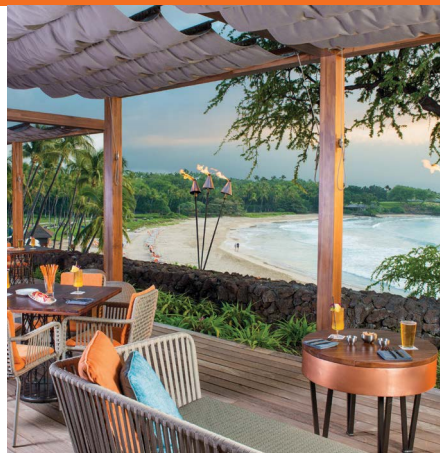
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Reservations highly recommended. (808) 882.5810

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HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INITIATIVE

Now in its fourth year, HPAF is proud to continue its Hawaiian Cultural Initiative, offering a series of classes designed to deepen the connection and understanding of Hawai'i's rich heritage among faculty, staff, and students. Guided by local experts, this year's curriculum features traditional kukui and lā'i lei making, Hawaiian history, language lessons, and hula instruction. Through this initiative, we strive to foster a stronger sense of community and cultivate a meaningful appreciation for the native land and its people.

*Top: Hawane Rios (HPAF Alumna) and headliner during The Spirit of Hawai'i (2022).
Bottom: Michaela Lehuanani Larson.*

EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

HPAF's commitment to music education extends far beyond the training of our participants. Our "Behind the Curtain Series" invites audience members to join pre-performance discussions before *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*. These sessions provide a unique opportunity for the community to engage with HPAF artists on the thematic material and the creative process behind bringing an artistic vision to the stage.

Additionally, we are pleased to welcome underserved youth, along with up to two parents or guardians, to attend the final dress rehearsals of *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*. For more information or to participate in this special experience, please email assistants@hawaiipaf.org.

The HPAF Legacy

For the past 21 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: An Evening at the Stork Club

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

5:00pm / 7:30pm

**Blue Dragon Tavern
& Cosmic Musiquarium**

Step back into the glitz and glamour of 1929 with festival favorites Ashley Lambert, Phil Kadet, and Jason Garner as they bring the iconic Stork Club back to life. Praised for their “rock ‘em, sock ‘em blend” (LA Screen and Stage), this high-energy cabaret performance kicks off the season in unforgettable style. Food and drinks available for purchase. Seating begins at the listed time; performance starts 30 minutes later.

\$80 — General Admission

Sponsored by Blue Dragon Tavern & Cosmic Musicquarium, Peggy Kent - Lava Luxury Realty, and Carol & Clive Davies.

Love Languages

FRIDAY, JULY 4 7:00pm

Gates Performing Arts Center at HPA

Fall in love through song as HPAF Developing Singers and Professional Fellows explore romantic repertoire from across Europe—German Lieder, French Mélodie, and English and Italian Art Songs—all celebrating love in its many forms.

\$35 — General Admission

Great Performances

SATURDAY, JULY 5 7:00pm

Gates Performing Arts Center at HPA

An evening of exquisite chamber music featuring HPAF Faculty and Guest Artists in an intimate setting. Experience the brilliance of masterworks performed by world-class musicians at the height of their artistry.

\$35 — General Admission

Keiki Concert

SUNDAY, JULY 6 2:00pm

Gates Performing Arts Center at HPA

A fun, engaging concert designed especially for young audiences, introducing children to the joy and magic of live music and performance through favorite songs and interactive storytelling.

Free — General Admission

Sponsored by Nancy Stephenson.

From the Heart

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9 1:00pm

Gates Performing Arts Center at HPA

Experience the depth and intimacy of chamber music in this heartfelt program featuring HPAF's Instrumental Professional Fellows. Join us for an inspiring showcase of artistry and emotion, performed by the next generation of rising instrumental talent.

Pay What You Can — General Admission

So in Love

FRIDAY, JULY 11 7:00pm

Gates Performing Arts Center at HPA

HPAF Developing Singers and Professional Fellows bring timeless passion to the stage with romantic gems from the Great American Songbook—featuring works by Gershwin, Porter, Kern, and more.

\$35 — General Admission

Behind the Curtain

SATURDAY, JULY 12 &
SUNDAY, JULY 13 2:00pm
Kahilu Theatre

Go behind the scenes with the creative team of *The Marriage of Figaro* in this candid preshow conversation. Discover how Mozart's operatic vision is brought to life through staging, design, and interpretation.
Free — General Admission

The Marriage of Figaro

SATURDAY, JULY 12 &
SUNDAY, JULY 13 3:00pm
Kahilu Theatre

Schemes, secrets, and sharp wit collide in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*—one of the world's most frequently performed operas, bursting with unforgettable music and lively mischief. Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Accompanied by HPAF Orchestra.
\$40, \$50, \$60 — Reserved Seating

Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase

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

Celebrate the rising stars of HPAF's Ohana and High School Singer programs in a fully-staged performance showcasing their growth, talent, and dedication in a program of vocal favorites.
Pay What You Can — General Admission

Behind the Curtain

SATURDAY, JULY 19 &
SUNDAY, JULY 20 2:00pm
Kahilu Theatre

Join the artistic team behind *A Little Night Music* for a pre-performance conversation exploring the vision, challenges, and creative journey behind bringing Sondheim's beloved musical to the stage.
Free — General Admission

A Little Night Music

SATURDAY, JULY 19 &
SUNDAY, JULY 20 3:00pm
Kahilu Theatre

Stephen Sondheim's elegant and bittersweet musical waltzes through the follies of love and longing under the glow of the midsummer night, blending sharp wit, heartbreak, and sumptuous melodies—including the iconic "Send in the Clowns"—in a tale of intertwined romances and second chances. Accompanied by HPAF Orchestra.
\$40, \$50, \$60 — Reserved Seating



The 2025 Summer Festival is generously sponsored by Margareta & Staffan Encrantz (Platinum Sponsor), Mauna Kea Beach Hotel – Autograph Collection (Platinum Sponsor), Anonymous (Gold Sponsor), Atherton Family Foundation (Silver Sponsor), Carol & Clive Davies (Silver Sponsor), The Lematta Foundation (Silver Sponsor), Deviants from the Norm (Bronze Sponsor), Peggy Kent – Lava Luxury Realty (Bronze Sponsor), Michael Thompson (Bronze Sponsor), Dale & Don Franzen, Marilyn & Carl Bernhardt, Paul & Charlene Dahlquist, Jim Monk, Richard Fusch & Lynne Schneider, Nancy Stephenson, The Tauber Foundation, Debra Sims, W A Shimabukuro & M S Simpson, Steve Kaplan, Joanna Lipari, Manuel Guzman Garrow, Ernest Pinson Jr., Lisa Wells, Annette Tryon-Crozier, Claudia Roederer, Michael Hecht, 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.

✦ HPAF will be accepting non-perishable food donations at all events at Gates Performing Arts Center this season, with all contributions benefiting those in need in our local community. ✦

ADMINISTRATION



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

Dr. Justin John Moniz is a globally recognized leader in vocal pedagogy and performance. He was recently named the 2025 Ellen Faull Master Teacher by the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)—one of the profession’s highest honors—and received the 2024–25 Steinhardt Teaching Excellence Award at New York University (NYU), where he serves as Associate Director of Vocal Performance and

Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy. At NYU Steinhardt, Dr. Moniz leads the graduate vocal pedagogy program, teaches courses in pedagogic theory, applied voice, and research methods, and directs the award-winning NYU Pop/Rock Ensemble. He also serves on the vocal arts faculty at the Manhattan School of Music and is an associate editor for the *Journal of Singing*. His students regularly perform on Broadway, national television, and with companies such as Central City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Virginia Opera, and Portland Opera. More than 30 of his graduate advisees have published in peer-reviewed journals. A three-time winner of The American Prize in Vocal Performance, Dr. Moniz has sung over 90 roles spanning opera, musical theatre, and concert repertoire. His acclaimed performances have taken him to major companies including Opera Grand Rapids, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Sarasota Opera, Florida Grand Opera, The Columbus Philharmonic, Panama City Symphony, Terre Haute Symphony, Opera Company of Middlebury, Opera New Jersey, DreamCatcher Theatre/Adrienne Arsht Center, Orchestra Miami, Palm Beach Dramaworks, The Orchestra of Northern New York, and the Chicago Symphony Center. He was recently honored with the Yamaha Corporation Top 40 Music Educator Award and named both a Musical America Top Professional of the Year and one of Hawaii’s Most Admired Leaders by Pacific Business News. An accomplished researcher, Dr. Moniz is known for his work on vocal load regulation and pedagogical outreach. His article, “Regulating Vocal Load in High Impact Production,” was the most-read in the *Journal of Singing* in 2022. His NYU Vocal Pedagogy Outreach Program has reached over 1,800 students from 27 underserved U.S. communities. Dr. Moniz holds four degrees from Florida State University, University of Miami, and SUNY Potsdam. He also holds certifications from Harvard Business School, Duke University, and the National Academy of Sports Medicine. For more information: justinjohnmoniz.com / @jj_moniz

ADMINISTRATION



VAL UNDERWOOD — Co-Founder/Artistic Director | Co-Chair, The Encrantz Professional Fellowship Program | Vocal 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.



GENETTE FREEMAN — Co-Founder | Executive Director Emerita

Genette was born and raised in Greeley, Colorado and met HPAF Artistic Director Val Underwood in 7th grade. She attended the University of Colorado in Boulder and was lead singer in a rock and roll band for six years. She was an award winning Directory Advertising Consultant for Dex Media for 20 years. Two weeks after retiring, she co-founded HPAF with Val and served as Executive Director for 15 years. After taking several years off for health reasons, she is back working

with HPAF Staff to help wherever she can. She is married to Eric Hammersmark, and together they have four grandchildren.

ADMINISTRATION



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

Award-winning Stage Director, Producer, Administrator, and Educator, Scott Skiba has directed over 115 productions for professional companies, international performing arts festivals, and academic institutions, including Indianapolis Opera, Mobile Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Pensacola Opera,

Opera Tampa, Toledo Opera, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, The Curtis Institute, Oberlin Conservatory, and The Interlochen Center for The Arts. Skiba serves as Executive Artistic Director - Cleveland Opera Theater, Production Director - Opera Western Reserve, and Artistic Advisor - Amelia Island Opera. His work has received numerous national awards, including The American Prize in Directing - The Charles Nelson Reilly Prize, The American Prize in Opera Performance, multiple 1st Place Awards in the National Opera Association Collegiate Production Competition, and the Award for Digital Excellence in Opera from Opera America. A pioneer in exploring contemporary approaches to producing opera, Scott has led interdisciplinary collaborations in alternative and site-specific venues including The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute, and iLyric - an installation of nine different operas throughout the historic piazze of Arezzo, Italy in collaboration with the ICASTICA Festival and the city of Arezzo. A champion of contemporary opera, Skiba established {NOW} Fest, Cleveland Opera Theater's annual festival dedicated to the creation, development, and production of new opera, serves on the Chamber Opera Composition Committee for the National Opera Association, and has been involved in the development and premiere of more than 18 new operas with the leading composers and librettists in the industry. A passionate advocate for arts education and fostering the development of emerging artists, Scott serves as Theater Instructor/Stage Director for the Washington National Opera Institute summer training program for high school singers at the Kennedy Center, Director of Opera Studies for Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, and Acting Instructor for Jennifer Rowley's Boot Camp. Previous appointments include Executive Director of the Oberlin in Italy training program and Arezzo Opera Festival, Instructor of Voice and Opera Theater at Interlochen Arts Academy, Interim Director of Opera Theatre at the University of Tennessee, and Associate Instructor of Voice at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Skiba is represented by Marvel Arts Management More info: 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. 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. Ms. Copeland 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. 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 Mimi 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*, Adina in Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*, and a role and company debut of Agueda in *Mayo, Bisperas ng Liwanag* in the Philippines (cancelled due to COVID). Other world premiers include workshops with Cleveland Opera Theatre and with Penn State Opera Theater of the Andreoni/Heppleman Leavings. 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 the Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra for Britten’s *Les Illuminations* and a performance of Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire* commemorating the 100th year celebration of its American premiere, appearing 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 served as 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. Copleand 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 Eastman Conservatory of Music, Indiana, University, Florida State University, Oberlin College and 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

ADMINISTRATION

after as a master class technician both nationally and abroad and has been on the faculty of the summer festival for the Puccini Institute in La Spezia, Italy, the Jen Rowley Aria Bootcamp festival in Sarasota, Florida, 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 at 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.



SHAYNA LEAHY — Artistic Administrator

Shayna Leahy currently serves as the Artistic Administrator for HPAF after spending two summers as the Director of Production. As an operatic stage director, she has helmed productions of *Roméo et Juliette*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for New York City Opera 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 30 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 21st season.

ADMINISTRATION



CIARA EMILY NEWMAN — Assistant to the General Manager

Ciara Emily Newman is a soprano from Fairbanks, Alaska. She serves as the Assistant General Manager for HPAF under the direction of Dr. Rachel Copeland. Ciara holds a Master's degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from Penn State University as well as a Bachelor's in Vocal Performance from Baldwin Wallace University. Ciara's voice has been described as a sunny soprano while remaining agile and dramatic. Her command of the stage has lead her to many interesting projects including a live radio broadcast of Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* with Penn State Opera Theater. Ciara was seen in the world premier of

Griffin Candey's *The House of Bernarda Alba* as Magdalena in May of 2022 with Cleveland Opera Theater. She has also performed in the Midwest premier of Tom Cipullo's *Glory Denied* as Older Alyce Thompson. Recently she has had the pleasure of pursuing outreach work with Opera Western Reserve performing abridged versions of classic operas geared toward engaging the next generation of music makers. Her credits as a faculty member and administrator include work with Baldwin Wallace University, Kent State University, Aurora School of Music, Lakewood Music Academy, Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, and Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.



ROSE BLUMENFELD — Artistic Administration Intern

Florida native Rose Blumenfeld is dedicated to working for the arts. Starting as a classically trained mezzo-soprano, she has found fulfillment in the administrative side of music, informed by the experience of a performer. From internships with arts organizations such as the Adrienne Arsht Center, Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Hartford Jazz Society, and Connecticut Lyric Opera, she has built a multi-faceted management skillset, especially in development. Rose currently serves as the President of Frost Sounds, the University

of Miami's student music enterprise, overseeing the planning and execution of live music performances for independent artists. Rose recently produced the Ormond Beach leg of Micha Biton's American concert tour for The Jewish Federation. An active singer, Rose has been the alto soloist for Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and performed in Copland's *The Tender Land* (Beth), Pasatieri's *La Divina* (Cecily). She currently holds a staff singer position at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, Florida. Rose holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance with a minor in Performing Arts Management from the The Hartt School at the University of Hartford and is currently pursuing her Masters of Arts in Live Entertainment Management from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami.



KATRINA COLE — Artistic Administration Intern

Katrina Cole is a recent graduate of the University of Memphis where she earned her Masters of Music with Dr. Paulina Villarreal. Ms. Cole also holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from The Pennsylvania State University where she studied with Dr. Rachel Copeland. Recently, Ms. Cole was Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella* and Hannchen in *Der Vetter aus Dingsda* with the University of Memphis Opera, Second Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and Blanche de la Force (cover with

performance) in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with Penn State Opera Theatre.

FACULTY ARTISTS



DANIEL BELCHER — Vocal Faculty

GRAMMY® Award-winning baritone Daniel Belcher has performed in many of the world's music capitals, including Paris, London, New York, San Francisco, Berlin, Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Geneva, Madrid, Toronto, Montreal, Tokyo, Seoul and Houston. He received his GRAMMY Award in 2011 for the role of Jaufre Rudel in Kaija Saariaho and Amin Malouf's *L'Amour de Loin* under the baton of Kent Nagano on the Harmonia Mundi Label. A champion of the comedic roles of Rossini and Mozart, he has also performed in the world

premieres of multiple new operas including *Little Women* (Adamo), *Elizabeth Cree* (Puts and Campbell), *Angels in America* (Eotvos), *The House Without a Christmas Tree* (Gordon and Vavrek), *The Scarlet Letter* (Laitman) among others. Recently, he has performed the roles of Max in *The Sound of Music* and Officer Krupke in *West Side Story*, both with Houston Grand Opera, the Masque in *The Central Park Five* at the Detroit Opera and Fritz/Frank in *Die Tote Stadt* at Opera Colorado. Upcoming performances include Baron von Trombonok in *Il Viaggio a Reims* at Opera Philadelphia and Dulcamara in *L'Elisir d'Amore* at Utah Opera. He is currently an Instructional Assistant Professor of Voice at the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston and the voice teacher for the Artist-in-Residence program at Opera Colorado. He judges for the annual Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. This is his fifth summer with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.



BETH DUNNINGTON — Acting Faculty

Beth Dunnington (AEA and SAG/AFTRA) is an acting teacher and stage director for HPAF. Last season, she directed HPAF's *Little Women* (winning "Best Director" and "Best Musical" in the Hawai'i BroadwayWorld Awards). Other HPAF productions she directed: *The Last Five Years*, *Big Island Broadway*, *Company*, and the opera, *As One*. Beth starred in *Que Sueños Con Las Angelitas* at Jazz at Lincoln Center – a theatre/dance piece she wrote with Prince Dance, which premiered at Kahilu Theatre before touring the Hawaiian islands. A few favorite

roles: Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, directed by Broadway's Tom O'Horgan; Susan B. Anthony in Virgil Thomson's *The Mother Of Us All*, directed by NY Times classical music critic, Tony Tommasini; Georgia O'Keefe in *Nearby Faraway*, opposite Academy Award-winner J.K. Simmons; and The Witch in *Into The Woods* for HPAF. For Kahilu, she directed *Spelling Bee*, four *Broadway in Hawaii* concerts, *Grease*, *Godspell*, *13 -The Musical*, *Spring Awakening*, *West Side Story*, *RENT*, and *Fun Home*. Beth is the Director of the Kahilu Youth Troupe and she sits on the Kahilu's Board of Directors. Beth is also an Emmy Award-winning writer who spent years writing scripts for a dozen animated TV series. She leads the Big Island Writers' Workshop and the "Performing The Story" platform. Beth is married to developer Steve Dunnington; they moved to Waimea from NYC in 2007. Their children, Marena and Sean, are proud HPAF alumni. Beth studied acting with the legendary Uta Hagen. She's thrilled to return to HPAF for her 14th season.

FACULTY ARTISTS



**PAUL FLOYD — Music Director/Conductor,
The Marriage of Figaro | Co-Chair, Collaborative
Piano Fellowship Program | Vocal Coaching Faculty**

Pianist Paul Floyd works as a collaborative artist, vocal coach and conductor. He has taught on the music faculties of Chapman University and the University of California, Los Angeles. For sixteen years he served as an Assistant Conductor with the Los Angeles Opera and was regularly featured as a lecturer at pre-performance talks. During the summers he has coached or conducted at the Santa Fe Opera, Aspen Music Festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and the Astoria Festival in Oregon. Paul frequently appeared as the official accompanist for the Western Region Finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. His movie credits include an appearance with Julie Andrews and Anna Netrebko in *Princess Diaries II*, and a Disney Hall performance with Vivica Genaux in Anthony Hopkins' *Fracture*. He is currently working as principal coach of the Resident Artist program and assistant conductor for the Portland Opera. Paul holds a doctoral degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in addition to degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Southern California, where he graduated summa cum laude.



DIANNA HELDMAN — Vocal Faculty

For over thirty years, Dianna Heldman performed extensively throughout the United States singing principal roles with opera companies and as a soloist with orchestras, choral companies, and in recital. In 1995, she made her New York debut at Weill Hall premiering *Summer's End*, songs by Carlton Clay, and joined the New York City Opera National Company completing three national tours: *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Rosina/Berta), *La Bohème* (Musetta) and *Madama Butterfly* (Suzuki). Invited to join the NYCO house roster in 1996, she was featured in *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *The Magic Flute*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Kinkakuji*, *Mikado*, *Rigoletto*, and *La Cenerentola* as well as representing the company in concert in Manaus, Brazil, and productions at SPAC Saratoga and Wolf Trap. Joining the adjunct music education and vocal performance faculty at NYU in 1996, Dianna was named Associate Director in 2003 and is a recipient of the New York University, Steinhardt School Teaching Excellence Award. Recruited in 2011 by the Shanghai Conservatory as an authority on integrated teaching in music theatre and opera, she continued as a consultant and master teacher working with students and faculty onsite annually through 2019. In 2015, she joined the Affiliate Faculty at NYU Shanghai tasked with introducing music and theatre into the curriculum. Between 2015 and the end of 2019 she divided her time between the Shanghai and New York campuses developing and implementing innovative curriculum, teaching, mentoring new teachers and directing. With a successful performance career in the past, she delights in watching her students find joy and success in performance venues and classrooms of all types throughout the world.

FACULTY ARTISTS



AUDREY LUNA — Vocal Faculty

GRAMMY® Award-winning soprano Audrey Luna has performed on many of the world's leading stages, including the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Teatro La Fenice, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Den Norske Opera, Opéra de Montréal, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, and Opera Hong Kong. Her concert credits include the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, and Carnegie Hall. She recently made house débuts

at Teatro Real Madrid as Madame Mao in *Nixon in China* and Teatro alla Scala, reprising Ariel in Thomas Adès' *The Tempest*. Next season, she returns to San Antonio Opera as the Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte*. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte*, followed by roles including Najade in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Fiakermilli in *Arabella*, Olympia in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, and Ariel in *The Tempest*. *The New York Times* praised her Ariel as "a dazzling creation, and Ms. Luna conquers the role." She created the role of Leticia in Adès' *The Exterminating Angel* in its world premiere at the Salzburg Festival, with subsequent performances at the Royal Opera House and the Metropolitan Opera where she set the record for the highest note ever sung on that stage (A6). Ms. Luna holds a Master's in Vocal Performance and Artist Diploma from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor's in Music from Portland State University. She apprenticed with Santa Fe Opera and Pittsburgh Opera and teaching affiliations include HMTA, MTNA, and NATS.



MASON MARGUT — Vocal Coaching Faculty, Collaborative Pianist/Assistant Music Director, *A Little Night Music*

Mason Margut is a pianist and composer based in New York City. He performs regularly at iconic NY venues such as Birdland and 54 Below, and has performed at notable venues around the country including the Ravinia Festival, Savannah Music Festival, and with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. His music can be heard in "A Friend of the Family" (2023, Peacock), and his score of the film "Free Time" (2024,

Cartilage Films), was acclaimed as "warm and impeccable" (Currant Jam). Recent credits include music directing "A Little Night Music" (American Theatre Group, 2024). A skilled accompanist, he currently serves as a staff accompanist at New York University and for the Young People's Chorus of New York City. Margut holds a Master's degree in collaborative piano from New York University and a Bachelor's degree in jazz piano from Florida State University.

FACULTY ARTISTS



DEBRA MCGEE — Choreographer, *A Little Night Music*

Debra moved to Hawai'i island in 2011 after performing, teaching, and choreographing in NY and MN Twin Cities for over two decades. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College in N.Y.C. There she performed works by José Limón, Milton Myers, Jeffrey Holder, Louis Falco, Virginia Johnson and Lar Lubovich. Debra is a former member of Garth Fagan Dance and performed his works nationally and internationally. Thereafter, she began teaching and choreographing again while training vocally at the Eastman

School of Music in NY. Later, she returned to MN where she worked with former Alvin Ailey principal's company called TU Dance, performed in numerous musicals and worked as a teaching artist. She has taught and created works at the University of Minnesota, Gustavus Adolphus College, The Cowles Center, Penumbra Theater and St. Paul Conservatory. Now in her seventh year as a member of the Prince Dance Company on the island of Hawai'i Debra continues to perform, choreograph collaboratively, and teach. She is director at Kona Dance and Performing Arts, founder of Danse Space in Hawi and is a teaching artist with Hawai'i State Foundation of Arts and Culture. She is thrilled to return a fourth time to the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival where she received Broadway Regional Awards for her choreography for *Hair* and *Little Women*. Debra is a passionate teaching artist, choreographer and director who shares the power of communication through dance.



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*. Ophelia in the Thomas *Hamlet* opposite baritone Sherril Milnes, skyrocketed her career, followed by Musetta in *La Bohème*, 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. 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 was the first soprano to perform Lucia at the Sydney Opera House following Dame Joan Sutherland, for whom the production was originally mounted. McGregor was claimed by critics as the "New Sutherland". Subsequent seasons included the addition of Violetta in *La Traviata*, *L'enfant et les Sortilège*, the title role in *Lulu*, 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 various Australian Symphonies. McGregor now resides in London with her husband Russell Morgan.



We are thrilled to share that Hawaii Performing Arts Festival has received seven BroadwayWorld Hawaii Awards for *LITTLE WOMEN*! Congratulations to all of this year's winners (and nominees). And a huge thank you to our beloved Ohana for your continued support!



BEST MUSICAL
LITTLE WOMEN - HPAF



**BEST MUSIC
DIRECTION &
ORCHESTRA
PERFORMANCE**
Justin John Moniz
LITTLE WOMEN - HPAF



BEST ENSEMBLE
LITTLE WOMEN - HPAF



**BEST
DIRECTION
OF A MUSICAL**
Beth Dunnington
LITTLE WOMEN - HPAF



**BEST
CHOREOGRAPHY
OF A MUSICAL**
Debra McGee
LITTLE WOMEN - HPAF



**BEST SUPPORTING
PERFORMER IN A
MUSICAL**
Tori Hitchcock
LITTLE WOMEN - HPAF



**BEST LIGHTING
DESIGN OF A MUSICAL**
Steve Shack
LITTLE WOMEN - HPAF

FACULTY ARTISTS



JAMES MYERS — Co-Chair, Collaborative Piano Fellowship Program | Vocal Coaching Faculty

Keyboardist James J. Myers enjoys collaborations with leading artistic luminaries of our age. Esteemed projects have included *Indie Songs* with Renée Fleming, *Vier letzte Lieder* with Christine Brewer, and Opera Colorado's Naxos recording of *Nixon in China* with John Adams and Marin Alsop. He's shared stages with Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, Nadine Sierra, composers Tom Cipullo and Jake

Heggie, and conductors Bernard Labadie, Matthew Halls, Peter Oundjian, and the late Marvin Hamlisch. In masterclasses he's supported Jane Eaglen, Stephanie Blythe, Abby Simon, Wagnernian Linda Watson and the late Soulima Stravinsky and Zvi Zeitlin. He was Assistant Professor of Opera and Voice at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee where his students won contracts to renowned summer festivals and houses throughout the world. He enthusiastically supported Berklee's *Summer Opera Intensive* in Valencia, Spain, and is currently collaborative faculty with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Recent projects include *Pagliacci* in collaboration with Circus Smirkus and Opera Vermont; concerts showcasing music of Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, and The Carpenters with *Music at Moose Meadow*, New England; imaginative programs featuring living Greek composers, poetry and instruments in Athens, Greece; Garifuna drumming and cuisine, Belize; and traditional Amazigh rubak and bendir, Tunisia. Prof. Myers' dynamic performances reached the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia, Spain; Hannover's Beethovensaal; the DiMenna Center, New York; Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, Portland; and King's College, Cambridge, England. He studied with esteemed pedagogue Karl-Heinz Kämmerling at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover, Germany through a Rotary Fellowship; completed advanced German certification with Goethe-Institut Prien am Chiemsee, Germany; French in Annecy, France through an International Education Grant; and earned degrees with distinction from the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Eastman School of Music.

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. Maika'i has lived abroad, studying at McGill University in Montréal, at the Schubert Institute of Lied 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. He also spent 2.5 years in Bogotá, Colombia, working as a vocal coach, répétiteur, and pianist. Maika'i launched HI Arts Lab, a company creating experiential moments in music across multiple art forms, to rave reviews at the Entrepreneur's Sandbox in Honolulu's art district, Kaka'ako. 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. Maika'i studied with Ernest Chang and made his solo debut with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra when he was 11. He has also been engaged as the official collaborative pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions and has collaborated 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.



ELENA SHADOW-HARRINGTON — Stage Director, *A Little Night Music*

Elena Shaddow is a multi-faceted performer whose career spans genres and years. Her professional career began while still a student at NYU when she starred as Kathie in *The Student Prince* at North Shore Music Theatre. On Broadway, Elena has starred as Otilie in *The Visit*, Anne in *La Cage aux Folles*, and in *The Bridges of Madison County*, *The Woman in White*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Nine*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, and *Les Misérables*. She has also starred in two Broadway National tours, playing Anna in *The King and I* and originating the role of Clara in the 1st National Tour of *The Light in the Piazza*. Favorite theater roles include: Mary in *Mary Poppins*, Mother in *A Christmas Story*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, and Lili in *Carnival!*. Elena can be seen in *FBI: International*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Conviction*, *Person of Interest*, *The Intern*, *Time After Time*, and portrayed Sister Sophia in NBC's *Sound of Music Live!* She is the co-founder of Theatre Arts Project in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey where she teaches acting and singing to ages 4-94. She also serves as an adjunct professor at New York University teaching private voice, Song Analysis to Musical Theater Grad Students and Fundamentals of Performing to Freshman. She is considered to be one of the more intelligent and sensitive theater artists in her field, along with holding a reputation for excellent vocal technique. She is the mother to two incredible kids, Adelina, 16, and Liam 12, and married to the brilliant Michael Harrington. She is represented in NYC and LA by Artists and Representatives along with Jeff Berger Management.

PRODUCTION TEAM



BRITTANY POWELL BLASCHKE — Projection Designer

Brittany Powell Blaschke 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. .



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 Hawai`i for her work with *Hair* and the Hawai`i Performing Arts Festival.



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 the past three 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's previous experience also includes 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. Steve is elated to be back at HPAF to design to design *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*. When not in a venue he prefers to body surf in the Pacific Ocean.



ABBY GUINIGUNDO — Production Intern | Stage Manager, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Abby Guinigundo is a Filipino-American stage manager, director, and performer from Cincinnati, Ohio. Abby is currently studying at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, where they are working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Stage Management, Music (Voice Primary), and a Minor in Arts Management. They recently returned from a collegiate choral music tour with American Music Abroad performing

throughout Europe in countries including Germany, Austria, Italy, and the Czech Republic. Abby is thrilled to be back with HPAF after stage managing *L'incoronazione di Poppea* last season. A few of their favorite undergraduate stage management credits include Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight*, Handel's *Radamisto*, Sankaram and Dye's *Taking Up Serpents*, and Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. In the fall, Abby will be making their full play directorial debut as the director of Rebecca Gilman's *Boy Gets Girl* with Baldwin Wallace Theatre and Dance and begin their research on Mensural Notation in Renaissance Music as the University's Gott Scholar, which will be presented at the 94th Annual Bach Festival in the Spring of 2026. Abby would like to thank their family and friends for their constant love and support!

ORCHESTRA



KEIRA IDA AYU — Percussion Assistant, *A Little Night Music*

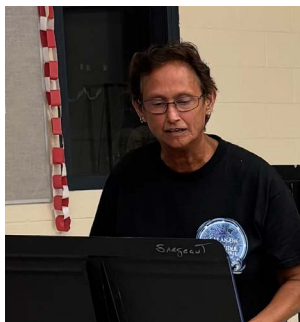
Keira is a dedicated and multi-talented student who recently completed 10th grade at Waiakea High School. A passionate musician, she began playing the piano at the age of four and continues to hone her skills through regular practice and performance. In addition to piano, she has studied percussion since 6th grade and actively contributes her talents to several ensembles, including the Hawaii Youth Symphony, Orchid Isle Orchestra, and the Waiakea High School Band. Her artistic pursuits extend beyond music; in the fall, she joined the school's springboard diving team and has since developed a strong enthusiasm for the sport, continuing to learn and grow as a diver. Outside of her own studies, Keira shares her love of learning by giving piano lessons to younger students and tutoring math, helping others build confidence in their skills. She is known for her discipline, creativity, and willingness to take on new challenges-both in and out of the classroom.



YASMINE BOUGACHA — Violin (Professional Fellow), *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

Yasmine Bougacha is a passionate soloist and chamber musician known for her nuanced and diverse stylistic performances. With a rich heritage rooted in Mexican and Tunisian cultures, Yasmine has performed across three continents, including a notable debut as concertmaster and soloist at Carnegie Hall. Her dynamic career is highlighted by engagements such as performing with the Texas female mariachi group Rosas Divinas, Grammy winners at the Stowe Tango Music Festival, and Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra at the Brevard Music Center. Yasmine's passion for a broad range of musical genres has also led her to arrange traditional Arabic songs, reflecting her deep connection to her cultural roots. Her commitment to using music to humanize narratives led her to cofound Harmonies of Humanity and was recently named a Fulbright Scholar Semifinalist. She holds a Master of Music and an Artist Diploma in Violin Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she studied under Won-Bin Yim and Timothy Lees, and a Bachelor of Music with a minor in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University, where she studied with Diane Kitzman and Nathan Olson.

ORCHESTRA



SHARON CANNON — Percussion, *The Marriago of Figaro and A Little Night Music*

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 Sharon moved to Hawaii due to health issues, where she has since made her home. 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. Sharon has also headed KPOS' 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 Music, as it has the power and tendency to magically bring people together.



STEF CRESWELL — Principal Viola, *The Marriago of Figaro*

Stef Creswell, violist, works as a teaching artist in the Seattle area. They studied alongside amazing cohorts of fellow musicians in East Lansing, Michigan, at Indiana University, and at the Curtis Institute as well as on the campuses of Oberlin and Amherst College. Playing violin and viola, Stef has recorded and toured with major U.S. and Canadian baroque orchestras, and currently performs as a member of Northwest

Sinfonietta. As a teaching artist, they aim to connect received movements from the past with humans encountering sound in the present, to transform our understanding of art. Stef's HPAF orchestra debut and most recent Hawaii appearance was in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, in 2023

ORCHESTRA



MARIO ORLANDO FLORES — Flute, *A Little Night Music*

Mario O. Flores (Flute) is a passionate Performing Arts educator and conductor with over 30 years of experience. Raised in Los Angeles, he now calls Kamuela home. He currently serves as Upper School Arts Department Chair and Director of Music at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy (HPA). Mario's career in music education and leadership spans both East and West Coasts, with past roles at the Hun School of Princeton, Williston-Northampton School, and Webb Schools of CA. He also served as Director of Orchestras for Play On, Philly!, a nonprofit El Sistema-based program providing music opportunities to underserved children in Philadelphia. After a five-year hiatus due to a hand injury, Mario returned to performance in 2022 and now performs with choral groups, orchestras, and musical theatre ensembles across Big Island, Hawai'i Mario holds a B.A. with Honors from Brown University, an M.A. in Music Education from Columbia University, and a conducting fellowship from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music.



NAOMI FOLWICK —Violin (Professional Fellow), *The Marriage of Figaro*

Naomi Folwick, violinist, is a performer and teacher currently based in Chicago, Illinois. She is an associate member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and also plays with Northbrook Symphony Orchestra and Oistrakh Symphony. Mrs. Folwick holds a Masters degree in Violin Performance from DePaul University where she studied under professor I-Hao Lee and a BM in Violin Performance from Pacific Lutheran University. Featured summer festivals include the Tateuchi Institute of Music where she studied under members of the San Francisco Symphony and Meadowmount School of Music in Upstate New York. Naomi also has a passion for teaching and is currently a teaching artist through the DePaul Community Music Division outreach program, Chicago School of Musical Arts, and maintains a private violin studio. She previously served as a violin instructor at Tacoma Christian Music Academy and Capella Music Academy in Tacoma, Washington state from 2020-2023 as well. When not performing, she enjoys staying active through yoga, aerial silk dancing, weight lifting – finding increased body awareness and proprioception enhancing her artistry as both a performer and teacher.

ORCHESTRA



AMANDA FRIEDMAN — Horn,
The Marriage of Figaro and A Little Night Music

Born in Jacksonville Florida, Amanda Friedman is an up-and-coming horn player who particularly enjoys performing romantic style music due to its expansive and emotional nature. She has collaborated with notable professionals, such as Peter Kurau, James Thompson, and Øystein Baadsvik. Amanda began her musical studies at age nine playing french horn and quickly discovered a passion for performance with the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra only 3 years after

beginning to play horn. During her bachelor of music studies at Eastman School of Music, Amanda performed with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as a part of a premier of a piece composed by Jeff Beal, and also as a member of the Eastman Faculty Octet. Amanda moved to North Carolina to complete her Master's degree studying with Maria Serkin, which she just finished in spring of 2025. In North Carolina, Amanda is performing as a substitute with multiple orchestras in the area including the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, and Winston-Salem Symphony. She was a two year fellow with Piedmont Wind Symphony, and currently holds a contracted section position with the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle.



JASON GAMER — Trumpet,
An Evening at the Stork Club, The Marriage of Figaro, and A Little Night Music

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 were released on major streaming platforms in 2024. Gamer led 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.

ORCHESTRA



JAIME GORGOJO — Violin 2 Principal, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Concertmaster, *A Little Night Music*

Dr. Jaime Gorgojo frequently appears as a soloist and chamber musician both nationally and internationally. Recent appearances include the Rendezvous Arts Series, Myra Hess Concert Series, Grand Teton Music Festival, Strathmore Hall in Washington DC, Chicago Symphony Presents, and Ravinia Music Festival. Dr. Gorgojo performs over 60 concerts a year with the Metropolis String Quartet and the Northeastern Chamber Players. He is first violin of Corky Siegel's Chamber

Blues, an ensemble that juxtaposes blues and classical styles. A 2024 artist feature includes Op. 11 for Solo Violin, in the album *Symphonic Blues*. With the Haymarket Opera Company, Dr. Gorgojo played on the recording of Vinci's *Artaserse*. A recipient of the Individual Artist Grant, Dr. Gorgojo recorded and produced "Iberia," featuring Spanish and Georgian music for violin and piano. Dr. Gorgojo is head of the Violin and String Pedagogy area at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. He is also the Founder and Director of the Chicago Chamber Music Festival, a summer program for young talented musicians. He is excited to return to HPAF 2025 as concertmaster and violin faculty. Dr. Gorgojo received his Doctor of Music and Literature degree from Indiana University in October 2013 with a thesis on the works for solo violin by Manuel Quiroga and Jesús de Monasterio. He performs on a Pierre Dalphin violin from 2005.



MATTHEW HUDGENS — Oboe/English Horn, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

Matthew Hudgens picked up the oboe at 11 - arguably the most rebellious choice a middle schooler can make - and never looked back. Trained at East Tennessee State University, the University of North Texas, and The Juilliard School, he began his career steeped in classical tradition until early music hijacked his grad-school plans. One listen to a Baroque oboe's reedy charm, and he was a goner. These days, he's like a modern-day minstrel, performing with period ensembles

across North America including Philharmonie Austin, American Bach Soloists, Cantata Collective, Lyra Baroque, Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, Seattle Bach Festival, Portland Baroque, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and more. Matthew can be seen performing oboes from the baroque to late romantic, and yes even modern oboe, if the mood strikes. When not nerding out over historical temperaments or debating reed setups with colleagues, Matthew is probably curled up with a good book and a coffee or hiking through the Pacific Northwest with his partner, pretending to "unplug" while secretly brainstorming his next reed adjustment. Based in Portland, he's equally at home enjoying the incredible food scene the city offers or exploring a sunlit forest - just don't ask him to choose between the two.

ORCHESTRA



EDNA JEON — Flute, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

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, and has previously held the acting piccolo/3rd flute position at the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. Based in the California Bay Area, Edna enjoys reading and gardening in her spare time.



CARLA KOUNTOUPES — Concertmaster, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Carla Kountoupes, violinist, is a member of the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra, Arizona Opera Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, and Piazzolla da Camera Piano Trio. Carla has toured and performed professionally with orchestras and chamber ensembles in Central America, Taiwan, Germany, and all over the United States, including as a member of the New Century Chamber Orchestra in San Francisco and the Costa Rican National Symphony Orchestra. She enjoys

performing and recording many genres in addition to classical, including Latin/world, alt-rock/pop, and jazz. A dedicated music educator, Carla holds a Master of Music degree in Music Teaching. She has taught private violin lessons to children and adults for more than 25 years and is currently on faculty at the New Mexico School for the Arts. Carla was awarded *Music Teacher of the Year* in 2016, by the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) of New Mexico, and received the Santa Fe Public Schools' 2017 *Teachers Who Inspire Award*. She is a graduate of Oberlin Conservatory (Violin Performance) and Oberlin College (English Literature). Carla's violin was made in the 1740's and was inherited from her grandfather. www.ckviolin.com

ORCHESTRA



LIAM SHŌ LACEY — Horn, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

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 New Bedford Symphony, Cape 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.



EDEN LIU — Viola (Professional Fellow), *The Marriage of Figaro*

Eden Liu, violin/viola, is an incoming student at the University of Washington. She currently serves as President of the Juanita Orchestra programs I and II and is an active member of the Seattle Conservatory. Eden is a two-time winner of the Juanita High Concerto Competition and has performed as a soloist and ensemble musician across the U.S. and Europe. She participated and won eight awards at the International InterHarmony Music Festival in Italy last summer and will tour with the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Portugal Youth Symphony Orchestra this summer. In addition to her solo work, Eden regularly performs in symphonic, chamber, and musical theater settings throughout the Pacific Northwest!

ORCHESTRA



ANTHONY MARQUEZ — Violin (Professional Fellow), *The Marriage of Figaro*

Anthony Marquez is a violinist and student double majoring in Music Performance and Psychology at Central Washington University. As a freelance musician, he has performed with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra, Mid-Columbia Symphony, and Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra. He also works as an office assistant in the CWU Music Department, supporting the day-to-day operations of the program. He has served for two years as a teaching artist and administrative assistant with Yakima Music en Acción (YAMA), a role that nurtured his passion for equitable access to music education. His work has been featured in the Yakima Herald and other local publications. Currently serving as president of the Violin Club, he organizes events that connect student musicians with the broader campus community, including a paid visit with the Seattle Symphony and interactive campus outreach events. With a gentle and encouraging artistic style, Anthony is dedicated to helping others discover their confident, authentic sound. He believes in the power of music as a tool for self-expression, connection, and social change.



ANNA MARSH — Orchestra Manager, Bassoon, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

Anna Marsh, bassoon and personnel manager, is a Baroque wind specialist, who is also fluent in Medieval, Renaissance, Classical and Modern instruments. Her interests lie principally in the bassoon family, but she also doubles on recorders, saxophones, oboe, organ, piano and clarinet. Originally from Tacoma, WA, Anna has appeared with with Opera Lafayette (DC), Tempesta di Mare (Philadelphia), Ensemble Caprice (Montreal), Clarion Society (NYC), and Arion Orchestre Baroque (Montreal), Tafelmusik (Toronto), Seattle Baroque Orchestra, Washington Bach Consort (DC), and Musica Angelica (LA), Atlanta Baroque, Boulder Bach Festival and New York State Baroque, among others. She has been the featured soloist with the Foundling Orchestra with Marion Verbruggen, Arion Orchestre Baroque, The Buxtehude Consort, The Dryden Ensemble, The Indiana University Baroque Orchestra, Boulder Bach and NYS Baroque and others. She co-directs Ensemble Lipzodes and has taught both privately and at festivals and master classes at the Eastman School of Music, Los Angeles Music and Art School, the Amherst Early Music, and Hawaii Performing Arts Festivals and the Albuquerque, San Francisco Early Music Society and Western Double Reed Workshop. She has also been heard on Performance Today, Harmonia and CBC radio and recorded for Chandos, Analekta, Centaur, Naxos, the Super Bowl, Avie, and Musica Omnia. Marsh has studied music and German studies at Mt. Holyoke College, the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California and holds a doctoral in historical performance from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

ORCHESTRA



GUDRUN RASCHEN — Bass, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

Gudrun Raschen has extensive experience in solo, orchestral, and chamber music on double bass and cello. She has performed concerts in the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia, Poland, Finland, Italy, Germany, Vietnam, South Africa, and Namibia. In the US, she has played with the Fort Worth, Richardson, Wichita Falls, Miami Symphony, Dallas, and Texas Chamber Orchestras, as well as in early music concerts with the American Baroque Opera, Denton Bach Society, Orchestra of New Spain, Texas Camerata, Fantasmì, Fleur de Lys, Ensemble VIII, and Ensemble IX. Gudrun Raschen teaches double bass and serves as 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 prizes), the Sphinx Competition (2nd prize), and the Prix Orford Musique Competition (3rd prize). They have performed concertos with various orchestras, hold permanent positions in semi-professional and professional ensembles, and have substituted with the New York Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, and Houston Symphony. Many of her students have developed a passion for teaching and are now instructing in higher education, schools, music programs, and private studios.



KATIE RIETMAN — Principal Cello, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

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 Wassenauer 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.

ORCHESTRA



GARY ROSS — Trumpet, *A Little Night Music*

Gary Ross, at home on the concert stage and at jazz venues, has a wide array of credits to his name. His dazzling playing of Baroque masterpieces and the mellow sound of his jazz improvisations have won him acclaim from audiences young and old. He performed the Bach “Brandenburg Concerto #2” and the Haydn “Trumpet Concerto” with the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra and performs regularly with the Allentown Symphony, Trenton Symphony, and the Main Street Brass Quintet. On the show stage, Mr. Ross has performed with such artists as Liberace, Barry White, The Dupree’s and Bobby Vinton. He is co-founder of Crosswinds Trio and is still performing with his trio today.



NAOMI SCHRANK — Violin (Professional Fellow), *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Naomi Schrank, Violin, is an alumna of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, where she earned her Bachelor’s degree in Music Performance; McGill University, where she received a Master’s in Music Performance; and Northeastern Illinois University, where she completed a Master’s in Education with a focus on Advanced String Pedagogy. Based in Chicago, Naomi is also an alumna of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Civic Orchestra. She is currently a member of both the Madison Symphony and the Quad City Symphony, and performs regularly with the New World Symphony and several other regional orchestras across the country. Throughout her musical journey, Naomi has worked closely with a wide range of esteemed artists, including Riccardo Muti, Marin Alsop, Sir Simon Rattle, Leonard Slatkin, Ken-David Masur, Gerard Schwarz, Leon Fleisher, Yo-Yo Ma, Midori Goto, Emanuel Ax, Gil Shaham, Augustin Hadelich, and James Ehnes. As an educator, Naomi is passionate about inspiring the next generation of musicians. She maintains a private studio at the Barrington Music Academy and Suzuki School, serves as a Senior Faculty member at Northeastern Illinois University through its Community Music Program, and has appeared as a guest instructor with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association.



KELLY STUART — Cello, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Kelly Stuart is a cellist based on the Big Island of Hawai’i. Their career has taken them around the world, performing for musical theatre, chamber ensembles, and as a solo artist. A founding member of the Elbe Ensemble (Dresden, Germany), Kelly was also the Artist-in-Residence for rural schools in South Monterey County, California, from 2014-2015. They have appeared in the Forest Hill Concert Series (San Francisco), the Berkeley Arts and Letters lecture series, and on Kahilu.tv as a featured soloist. Holding a Bachelor of Music from Boston University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Southern Maine, they are the principal cellist of the Kamuela Philharmonic and perform with the string quartet ‘Apapane Rising. They were also a nominee for the 2020 Pushcart Prize in Nonfiction.

ORCHESTRA



LORI STUNTZ — Trombone, *A Little Night Music*

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. Lori plays principal trombone with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony and trombone with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Stuntz is on the faculty at Cal Poly Pomona. Lori is the president of She Can Play Brass, a premier women's brass organization in Los Angeles. As a commercial player, Lori plays lead trombone for Maiden Voyage, 3rd with The Geoff Stradling Big Band, and has performed with DIVA, Nancy Wilson, Jack Sheldon, Ray Anthony, Lionel Hampton, Bill Watrous, and The New York Pops. As a recording artist she has appeared on many major motion picture soundtracks including *Black Adam*, *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.



MARYA SZAUR — Viola, *A Little Night Music*

Marya Szaur has been immersed in music since she began piano lessons at age five. She later took up violin, briefly explored cello, and eventually fell in love with the viola, which has remained her primary instrument ever since. Marya is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Performing Arts Department, where she deepened her passion for performance and collaboration. She has played in the orchestras of numerous island productions, including *Peter Pan*, *Seussical*, *Miss Saigon*, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* and *HMS Pinafore*, *Into the Woods*, *Les Misérables*, *Once on This Island*, *West Side Story*, and *Hilo Da Musical*, among others. Currently, Marya performs regularly with the Kamuela Philharmonic and Orchid Isle Orchestra. She has also appeared with the Maui Chamber Orchestra, Blackrock Philharmonic, and the Kona Choral Society. In addition to her classical work, she teaches piano, hosts a weekly open mic in Hilo, and continues to write and perform original music. Whether in the concert hall, classroom, or community space, Marya brings warmth, skill, and heart to her music-making. She is thrilled to return to the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival for her second season in the orchestra pit.

ORCHESTRA



ALICE WANG — Clarinet, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

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 thriving or failing as a beekeeper.



COLLEEN WHITTY — Horn, *A Little Night Music*

Colleen moved to the Big Island from Chicago in 2017. While in Chicago, she performed with several orchestras for 15 years. Full time with the Lakeshore Symphony, Northwest Symphony, West Suburban Symphony and Wheaton Symphony Summer Orchestra. Since 2017 she has been employed with the Hawaii County Band, Kamuela Philharmonic and Principal Horn for the Maui Pops Orchestra. In 2019 she started the Kilauea Kwintet (brass) and performs regularly on Hawaii Island. In 2021, Colleen started the Big Island Horn Choir to further education of the

Horn for adults and students. She has also been volunteering at Keaau High School working with horn students. Colleen studied with Mary Kihlslinger at the University of Toledo and Warren Gref at Brevard Music Festival. Colleen has been involved with the Master Gardener Program at UH Hilo since 2022 and has concentrated on growing food for sustainability.



EMILY ELIZABETH ZIZZA — Clarinet (Professional Fellow), *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Little Night Music*

Emily is a clarinet instrumentalist who served in the United States Navy, performing with the Navy Band Northwest in Silverdale, Washington, and the Fleet Forces Band in Norfolk, Virginia, from 2012 to 2019. Emily served as unit leader for Navy Band Northwest Woodwind Quintet, Woodwind Trio, and Clarinet Trio. Emily has performed with the Central Stage Theater (Bainbridge, WA), Virginia Wind Symphony, Austin Ballet Orchestra, Chautauqua Music Festival, and the Pierre Monteux Music Festival. She

earned her Doctorate and Master of Music in Clarinet Performance from the University of Texas at Austin and holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Michigan. While in Austin, Emily discovered a love of teaching as a teaching assistant and private lesson instructor. In December 2024, she earned her Master of Social Work degree at West Virginia University with the goal of using social work and music together for therapeutic and healing modalities. She enjoys performing with the Allegany County Community Orchestra and teaches music locally.

GUEST ARTISTS



MICHELLE SHANSHAN DING — Countess Rosina, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Michelle ShanShan Ding is a versatile soprano-pianist whose extensive experience spans both solo performance and collaborative artistry. She has graced prestigious stages, with featured roles at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and in productions with Detroit, Pittsfield, and Cincinnati Operas. Holding a Doctorate in Piano Performance and a Master's in Vocal Performance, Michelle is equally accomplished in both disciplines, making her a rare and sought-after talent in the classical music world. This fall, she will begin her Doctorate in Vocal Performance, further expanding her expertise and musical depth. As a guest artist, Michelle performed in Detroit Opera's *Aida in Concert*, showcasing her vocal prowess. She is the soprano soloist and children's choir director at the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, and she collaborates with the EMU Orchestra and Choir as a soprano soloist. Additionally, Michelle is a member of Beyond, a Michigan-based professional vocal ensemble, where she performs in a variety of artistic settings and takes part in recording projects, further demonstrating her versatility and artistry. Michelle also serves as a judge for the prestigious Radda Rise International Piano and Vocal Competition, offering her keen insight to emerging artists. A passionate advocate for the arts and education, she is deeply committed to supporting teachers and community initiatives. She serves as a board member for three nonprofit organizations: the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), a community theater, and a Teacher's Guild.



PHIL KADET — Featured Artist, *An Evening at the Stork Club and Keiki Concert*

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.

GUEST ARTISTS



ASHLEY LAMBERT — Featured Artist, *An Evening at the Stork Club and Keiki Concert*

Ashley Lambert is thrilled to be back with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival for *An Evening at 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.



Encrantz PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS



LUIS SANCHEZ BRIONES — Bartolo, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Born in Mexico, Luis Briones studied in Mexico's National Conservatory of Music. In 2012 he made his opera debut as Osmin in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* by W. A. Mozart. Since then he has sung roles such as Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), El Inquisidor (*La leyenda de Tamonante*) and Séneca (*L'incoronazione di Poppea* in Hawaii). He has also appeared in oratorio concerts like *Petite Messe Solennelle* by G. Rossini and *Messiah* by G.F. Händel.



HANNAH HARNEST — Collaborative Pianist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

The German-American pianist Hannah Harnest recently established the critically-acclaimed Music for Thought Series, collaborating with the German Consulate New York, 1014 - space for ideas, NYU Steinhardt, New Chamber Ballet, the Leo Baeck Institute, the Nicholas Roerich Museum, the Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art, and Maestro James Conlon, amongst others, on concerts at the intersection of music and current events. In March 2023, Hannah won 3rd prize at "Das Lied" in Heidelberg, together with Australian soprano Alexandra Flood. In December 2024, she received a Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano from the Eastman School of Music. Forthcoming engagements include a residency with Cincinnati Song Initiative, and coaching positions with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Queens Summer Vocal Institute and Classic Lyric Arts in Italy.

Encrantz PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS



PAIGE HEIDRICH — Assistant Stage Director, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Paige Heidrich is a performer, teacher, and director currently based in mid-Michigan. She has appeared on stage as Alice Ford in *Falstaff*, Lady Billows in *Albert Herring*, Geraldine in *A Hand of Bridge*, Pamina in *The Magic Flute* and Constance in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. She also sings regularly in the Detroit Opera chorus. In the summer of 2024, she worked for Des Moines Metro Opera as the assistant director for *The Barber of Seville* and on the directing staff of the Apprentice

Artist program. Paige currently teaches applied voice and diction courses at Grand Rapids Community College and Saginaw Valley State University. She completed a DMA in Voice Performance from Michigan State University in May of 2025, defending her doctorate with the staging of the chamber opera *The Ghosts of Gatsby* and a corresponding document. She holds a MM in Voice Performance from MSU as well as undergraduate degrees in Voice Performance and Music Education from Baldwin Wallace University's Conservatory of Music.



BENJAMIN KEATING — Assistant Music Director/ Collaborative Pianist, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Benjamin Keating is an American classical pianist from Champaign-Urbana, Illinois studying Piano Performance with an emphasis in Collaborative Piano with Dr. Catherine Kautsky at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music. Keating made his debut with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival in 2023 serving as assistant music director and pianist for their production of *Into the Woods* and is thrilled to return to the Big Island. Keating is an active performer, devout collaborator,

and a lifelong musician; Keating performs a wide variety of the classical repertoire, with a focus on music written after the turn of the 20th century. Keating has earned first-place awards with the Schubert Club and MTNA Wisconsin competitions, the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, and finalist awards at the William C. Byrd Concerto Competition and PianoArts North American Competition. In addition to HPAF, Keating has also engaged with the Mostly Modern Festival, Bowdoin International Music Festival and the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Italy and at Carnegie Hall. Keating also studies conducting with Kristin Roach and serves as a rehearsal pianist and conductor with the Lawrence University Opera Theatre. Keating will pursue a Masters of Music starting in the Fall of 2025. Mahalo!

Encrantz PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS



ARMEN MARTIROSYAN — Collaborative Pianist, *A Little Night Music*

Armen Martirosyan is an award-winning, classically trained pianist and grand prize winner of several prestigious international competitions, including “New Eighth Sound,” “Harmonia,” and the “Renaissance” International Piano Competition. He is a two-time winner of the “Golden Harp” National Music Contest and the “Art Music” International Competition and has been nominated for Best Piano Performance and Outstanding Concert Master. Recently, he performed at the Key Biscayne Piano Festival, showcasing works by Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, and Rachmaninoff, and earned first prizes that led to an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall. A passionate educator and collaborative artist, Armen is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Keyboard Performance at the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, where he also earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. He has performed over twenty solo recitals and regularly collaborates with instrumentalists and vocalists, including Miami-based musicians violinist Kostia Lukyniuk, mezzo-soprano Solange Merdinian, and soprano Margarita Parsamyan. His repertoire spans composers such as Bach, Beethoven, Chaminade, Khachaturian, Mozart, and Ravel. Armen is also a dedicated piano educator who teaches students of all levels. He is committed to nurturing a love for music and contributing to Miami’s vibrant classical music scene.



WHITNEY MOORE — Assistant Stage Director, *A Little Night Music*

Whitney is thrilled to be spending the summer with HPAF! She currently studies musical theater and is a rising senior at UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television, after recently transferring from the Drama program at New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Her most recent directorial projects have included Associate Director of *Cabaret* at Tisch New Theater and Director of *A View From the Bridge* for NYU’s A Night of American Classics. Whitney also interned in the Theater department for Creative Artists Agency in their New York City office. Recent performance credits include Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins*, Kim in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Beth in *Little Women*. She is also looking forward to playing Louise in *Gypsy* this fall at Palo Alto Players in California! Whitney is also Founder/Artistic Director of CROWNE, a nonprofit organization which visits children’s hospitals as performing princesses, check us out at crownepress.org! Much love and many thanks to her family, friends, and beloved cat — Butter. Enjoy the show!

DEVELOPING SINGERS



GARRETT ABEL — Marcellina, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Garrett William Abel is a Tenor Sopranist born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and raised on the Cherokee Reservation. A proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Garrett is a former member of the Cherokee National Youth Choir, where he served as a cultural ambassador, helping to promote and preserve the Cherokee language through music. He is currently a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at Oklahoma City University, studying under Dr. William Nield Christensen.

Garrett's passion for music and performance has always been deeply rooted, and their journey became a tangible reality in 2019 when they were invited to study with acclaimed Mezzo-Soprano Barbara McAlister. Garrett has received numerous awards and superior ratings at both the district and state level. He is a three-year medalist with the OKMEA All-State Chorus and has performed nationally as part of the NafME All-National Honor Ensembles Mixed Chorus. Their most recent stage credits include Valetto in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival and Pythio in *Head Over Heels* at Oklahoma City University. Garrett aspires to continue his studies in graduate school and hopes to use his artistry to uplift Indigenous voices in classical music spaces.



PAUL AMAR — Antonio, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Paul Amar serves as Professor in the Global Studies Department at the University of California Santa Barbara. Before he began his academic career, he worked as a journalist in Cairo, a police reformer and sexuality rights activist in Rio de Janeiro, and as a conflict-resolution and economic development specialist at the United Nations. His book, "The Security Archipelago" was awarded the Charles Taylor Award for "Best Book of the Year" in 2014. He currently studies voice with Ms. Dauri Kennedy at DMK Studio in Santa Barbara, CA. In

the past, he practiced music at the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz at Duke University, played percussion in the Louisville Youth Orchestra, and keyboards in the New Wave band 'The Pubescents.'



AARON AMHOF — Henrik, *A Little Night Music*

Tenor Aaron Amhof is currently a student at Northwestern University pursuing a double major in Voice Performance, with W. Stephen Smith, and music education. He recently performed as Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Silvio in *Le docteur miracle* (Bizet), and Njegus in *Die lustige Witwe* at Northwestern. Aaron is also a member of Northwestern's premier early and contemporary music ensemble and serves as music director of the undergraduate chamber ensemble, The Renaissance Singers. He is beyond excited to be part of the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival this summer!

DEVELOPING SINGERS



TESSA CHIN — **Barbarina, *The Marriage of Figaro***

Tessa Chin was born and raised on the island of Maui. After graduating high school, she moved to New York City where she is currently studying Opera at the Manhattan School of Music. Most of Tessa's performance experience has come from school productions, youth theater, and community theater on Maui, including a fundraiser for which she was the solo entertainer. Furthermore, she had the distinguished opportunity to sing on stage at Carnegie Hall in the 2023 Honors Performance Series concert during her senior year, and recently, was a soloist

in a classical recital at Manhattan School of Music where she studies voice with the renowned Ruth Golden.



INHYE CHOI — **Cherubino, *The Marriage of Figaro***

Mezzo-soprano Inhye Choi graduated with her Artist Diploma degree from Montclair State University in May, 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. Also, she performed as Mercedes (*Carmen*) at the Miami Music Festival in 2022, 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. This winter 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*), Giannetta (*L'elisir d'amore*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), Hexe (*Hänsel und Gretel*) and Radames (*Aida*). Last summer she appeared as Nancy in *Albert Herring* at Chicago Summer Opera.



JOSHUA COMINSKY — **Figaro, *The Marriage of Figaro***

Joshua Cominsky (Figaro) is a recent graduate of Oklahoma City University where he acquired a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance. Joshua has done many productions at OCU including; *Gianni Schicchi* (Gianni Schicchi), *The Ballad of Baby Doe* (Horace Tabor), *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor* (Herr Fluth), *Die Zauberflöte* (Papageno), as well as other productions. Joshua made his professional debut with Painted Sky Opera in their production of *Don Giovanni* as Chorus and cover for Maseto. Joshua currently studies with Jeffrey Picon

and wants to thank his family for always being supportive of his adventures.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



ABBY CORPUS — Anne, *A Little Night Music*

Canadian soprano and actor Abby Corpus (she/her), is currently based in Victoria BC. She has been a part of the Pacific Opera Victoria Chorus since 2022, and has trained at several programs including the Victoria Conservatory of Music, University of Victoria, NUOVA Vocal Arts, and Halifax Summer Opera Festival. Some theatrical and operatic highlights include Virginia in Matt Conner's *Nevermore*, Aréthuse in Charpentier's *Actéon*, and Johanna in Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*. Earlier this season Abby made her solo debut with the Victoria

Symphony, performing alongside Tony Award-nominated performer Melissa Errico, and led by esteemed conductor Sean O'Loughlin. Dedicated to the art of collaboration, she most recently led and facilitated a devised workshop performance piece entitled *March Madness* exploring the connections between femininity and insanity as they are portrayed onstage in operatic and theatrical contexts. In addition to her work as a performer, Abby works regularly as a voice teacher and music director, and is especially dedicated to inspiring creativity for young people.



ELORA DANNAN — Mrs. Nordstrom, *A Little Night Music*

Elora Dannan recently graduated from Loyola Marymount University and will be attending NYU in the fall to pursue her Masters in Vocal Performance and Opera Studies. While her main focus is in classical voice, Elora is also trained in the styles of Musical Theatre, Jazz, and Rock. Her recent roles include Lady 2 (*Die Zauberflöte*), Featured Ensemble/Dance Captain (*Cendrillon*), Cosette (*Les Misérables*), Happy (*Death of a Salesman*), Mama Morton & U/S Velma (*Chicago*). Elora was the

soprano section leader of all 3 choirs at LMU and the VP of the treble choir. In addition to music, she has a BS in Chemistry and works weekends singing and face painting as a birthday party princess. She is overwhelmingly grateful for all of the support from her friends and family who encourage her every day to follow her dreams.



VICTORIA EGGLESTON — Mrs. Segstrom, *A Little Night Music*

Victoria Eggleston is making her debut at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Her regional theatre credits include *The Color Purple* at Casa Mañana, as Ensemble/ US Celie. She has performed in many shows within the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. Some include Lady in Yellow in *For Colored Girls* at Theatre Arlington, Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act* at the Upright Theatre, and Ulla in *The Producers* at the Grand Prairie Arts Council. Victoria has also done work in voice animation,

with the WNET GROUP as Emma Jackson in *Mission US: No Turning Back*. Victoria is thankful for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show!

DEVELOPING SINGERS



CLAIRE EHLERS — Mrs. Segstrom/Desiree (understudy), *A Little Night Music*

Claire Ehlers is an upcoming Senior Musical Theatre and Vocal Performance double major at Oklahoma City University (OCU) where she studies with Dr. Catherine McDaniel and coaches with Dr. Taylor Hutchinson. During her tenure at OCU she has performed in the productions of *Footloose*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. In 2024 she participated in the Performing Arts Abroad West End Musical Theatre Intensive program in London, UK. Past productions include *Brigadoon* (Meg Brockie), *Damn Yankees* (Lola), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Rosie), *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator) and *Newsies* (Medda Larkin). In addition to performing, Claire has also enjoyed sharing her love of theatre as the Dance Captain for *Once Upon a Mattress* at Midland University and as the Assistant Director & Choreographer for *Madagascar Jr.* at Theatre Arts for Kids in Lincoln, NE.



ADRIANA FALCÓN — Desiree, *A Little Night Music*

Adriana Falcón Ríos is a Latinx queer nonbinary actor, singer, and dancer from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico. They obtained a B.A. in Drama - Acting with two minors—one in French and the other in Women and Gender Studies—from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus (UPRRP). Their story begins in 2018 when they started taking musical theater and vocal training lessons at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of soprano Liz Elizabeth Rodríguez. Meanwhile, as a member of the UPRRP Touring Theater, Adriana would play the titular role of La Zapatera, in *La Zapatera Prodigiosa* by Federico García Lorca (2022). Adriana would later join the cast of the musical *The Fantasticks* (2023) by Harvey Schmidt as a genderbent version of El Gallo. Lastly, they would lead as Irma in Jean Genet's *The Balcony* (2024). Upon graduating, they would then obtain the Drama department's Victoria Espinosa Award, granted to its most outstanding student in acting. More recently, Adriana debuted Off-Off-Broadway at Teatro Círculo with the drama *Aura*; they played Rosé, who is entirely responsible for the play's sung narration. As an artist, they're interested in interdisciplinary exploration, art as a tool for social change, and the eternal discovery of what moves us.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



SIENNA FELDMAN — Petra, *A Little Night Music*

Sienna Feldman (Petra) is so excited to be a part of this amazing cast of *A Little Night Music*! She was first introduced to this show when she played Petra four summers ago at Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Camp, and she quickly fell in love with it. She is a rising sophomore at NYU Steinhardt in the Vocal Performance program with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Recently, she appeared as Syd in West 4th Stage Company at NYU's workshop of *Powerless: A New Musical*. She also appeared as Hag & Beth/Marmee u/s in West 4th's production of *Little Women*. She would like to thank the production team as well as the amazing cast and her family and friends for supporting her throughout this production.



FRANCESCA FIORAVANTI — Anne, *A Little Night Music*

Francesca Fioravanti is a soprano from Wilmington, Delaware. She has sung both solo and ensemble performances in the United States and in Europe. Recently, she has performed as Meg March in HPAF's 2024 production of *Little Women*, Morgana in Handel's *Alcina* at the Handel Opera Academy, and sang in the chorus for the world premiere of Derrick Wang's *Fearless* at OperaDelaware. Starting in the Fall of 2025, Francesca will pursue a Recital Artist Diploma at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, Ireland. She is thrilled to be playing the role of Anne Egerman in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*.



SICHENG GAO — Frid/Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm (understudy), *A Little Night Music*

Jerry (Sicheng) Gao is very excited to attend this three-week program in Hawaii with all the artists around the world together. Jerry recently graduated from University of Toronto with an undergraduate degree in Theater and Drama (BA). Jerry loves being involved in Theater not only in front of the stage but also the backstage. Jerry's recent theater credits include Stage Manager in *King Lear* (Trinity College Drama Society), Ensemble in *Jekyll & Hyde* (Doctor Bird Production), Understudy for Gabe/Henry/Dan in *Next to Normal* (Victoria & Trinity College Drama Society).

DEVELOPING SINGERS



GABRIEL GUTIERREZ — Basilio/Don Curzio,
The Marriage of Figaro

Gabriel Gutierrez is a young rising vocalist studying at The University of Houston's Moores School of Music, with renowned American Bass-Baritone, Timothy Jones. Gabriel has many accolades as a young musician such as being a part of the many choirs in the University of Houston Choral Department and singing under the direction of Dr. Betsy Cook Weber, Dr. Kaitlin Despain, and Professor Alexander Koppel. He has gone to Austria with The Ave Verum Competition Choir at UH to compete in the International Choral Competition, in which the University of Houston won the Grand Prize. He has sung many operas with The Moores Opera Center such as *Così fan tutte*, *The Merry Widow*, and *L'enfant et les sortiligés*. He's sung many masterworks such as Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, Handel's *Theodora* in Concert, and Fauré's *Requiem*. He's also competed in Vocal Competitions throughout high school, his first year of his undergraduate, and even participated in a masterclass with renowned American Bass-Baritone, Kevin Short. Gabriel's mission is to make art everywhere and anywhere he goes and also to create an atmosphere to inspire others to be artists in the music world.



CAROLINE HENDREN — Countess Charlotte
Malcolm, A Little Night Music

Caroline Hendren is a third year Soprano, Vocal Performance student, studying with Dr. Julia Pedigo at Appalachian State University. This is her second summer at HPAF and she is ecstatic to be back. Caroline's recent performance credits include *Suor Angelica* (Suor Angelica), *Little Women* (Amy), *A Little Night Music* (Petra), *Down in the Valley* (Jennie), *A Grand Night For Singing* (Lynne), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Kim MacAfee). Caroline is passionate about singing of all kinds and wants to pursue performing both Musical Theater and Classical music. In September 2024 Caroline was nominated for 'Best Supporting Performer in a Musical' by Broadway World for her performance in *Little Women*, with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Caroline is incredibly thankful for this opportunity and would like to thank the family, friends, and teachers who helped her get here.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



ASHLEE HERNANDEZ — **Barbarina/Susanna (cover),** ***The Marriage of Figaro***

Ashlee Hernandez is an undergraduate vocalist studying at The University of Houston's Moores School of Music with the esteemed American Baritone, Daniel Belcher. Ashlee has been a part of several choirs in the University of Houston Choral Department, including the internationally acclaimed Concert Chorale. With Concert Chorale she has gotten the opportunity to perform Handel's *Theodora* with Grammy nominated ensemble, Ars Lyrica Houston. She has performed in several opera choruses with The Moores Opera Center in shows such as *Così fan tutte*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Turandot*. She was recently named a 2025 National Semi-finalist for the Schmidt Undergraduate Competition.



GIANCARLO HOLLAND — **Bartolo/Figaro** **(understudy), *The Marriage of Figaro***

Giancarlo Holland is a Vocal Performance major from Brooklyn, New York and is studying at Oklahoma City University. He has been in numerous OCU productions, including *Die Zauberflöte* (Ensemble), *Sweeney Todd* (Featured Bass), *Die Lustigen Weiber Von Windsor* (Herr Reich), *The Ballad of Baby Doe* (Jacob), and *Strawberry Fields* (Son). Holland is a member of the Christensen Voice studio and a member of the McDaniel Coaching studio.



KOLBY KENDRICK — **Fredrik, *A Little Night Music***

Kolby Kendrick, baritone, is a hybrid singing-actor who received his B.M. in Vocal Performance from Liberty University, studying under Dr. Samantha Miller. He most recently portrayed Marco in *Gianni Schicchi* with Opera Roanoke under Maestro Steven White and Dean Anthony. He has been a Young Artist at such prestigious programs as Opera in the Ozarks, Ohio Light Opera, and Opera Roanoke. His most prominent roles include Figaro, *Le nozze di Figaro*; Leporello, *Don Giovanni*; Fredrik, *A Little Night Music*; and Frank, *Die Fledermaus*. Kolby also received an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition in 2023 and was featured in Opera News for his portrayal of Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Opera Roanoke. Kolby's love of musical theatre has led him to perform with Wolfbane Productions and Brian Clowdus Productions in Central Virginia. He was also a semi-finalist in Luke Frazier's APO's NextGen Competition. This fall, Kolby will begin his MM, Vocal Performance: Musical Theatre/Post-Master's Advanced Certificate, Vocal Pedagogy from NYU under the tutelage of Dr. Justin John Moniz. Kolby is so excited to be revisiting Fredrik while making his HPAF debut on the beautiful island of Hawaii.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



JACOB KENISON — Mr. Erlanson/Henrik (understudy), *A Little Night Music*

Jacob Kenison is a versatile tenor with eight years of training under Lawrence Gee, former assistant conductor of the New York City Opera. He has performed widely throughout the Salt Lake Valley in both opera and musical theatre. Operatic appearances include *Die Fledermaus*, with upcoming appearances in *Falstaff* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. His recent musical theatre appearances include *Kiss Me, Kate*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Footloose*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Known for his expressive tone, strong musicianship, and thoughtful character work, Jacob brings a compelling presence to both solo and ensemble work.



JOCELYN KNORR — Petra, *A Little Night Music*

Jocelyn Knorr is absolutely ecstatic to be in her first production here at HPAF! She just completed her first year at NYU Steinhardt studying vocal performance with a concentration in musical theatre. She is originally from Havertown, Pennsylvania. Some of her most recent musical theatre credits include Cady Heron in *Mean Girls*, Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, and Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*. She also recently made her NYC performance debut at the Green Room 42. Jocelyn is so thrilled to be working with so many incredible artists and is so excited to be here!



RYAN LIM — Frid/Count Carl Magnus-Malcolm (understudy), *A Little Night Music*

Ryan Lim is a 22 year old College student from High Point North Carolina. He is a food science major at North Carolina State University. Although not a theatre major, he has been a participant in many musical theatre productions through both his school and through community theatre as well. He has been involved in theatre since middle school and began taking vocal training in July of 2023. Ryan hopes to learn a lot in this program and use his skills to enter the professional theatre industry post graduation from college. He would like to dedicate his performing career to his parents who helped support him financially throughout all his ups and downs.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



JOANNA LIPARI — Madame Armfeldt, *A Little Night Music*

Joanna Lipari studied acting at New York's Neighborhood Playhouse under Sanford Meisner. She co-founded the improvisational troupe *The Cracked Tokens* with Mary Steenburgen and Pam Kareman, performing across the East Coast before settling at the Manhattan Theatre Club. After years on the Off-Broadway and regional theatre circuit, Joanna moved to Los Angeles, where she built a 40-year television career. Her credits include *The Rockford Files*, *Head of the Class*, *China Beach*, *The Practice*, *Chicago Hope*, and a recurring role on NBC's *Persons Unknown*. Film appearances include *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *JoJo Dancer*, *Your Life is Calling*, Netflix's *Spivak*, and voice work on the *Star Trek* franchise. Joanna earned acclaim in the L.A. theatre scene for *LUKA'S ROOM* (Rogue Machine Theatre) and *RHINOCEROS* (Pacific Resident Theatre). Her storytelling debut at *Rant & Rave* led to viral YouTube success for her stories, *Divorce is Hilarious*, *After You Stop Crying and Nuns*, *Jews and Negroes*, and inspired her one-woman show *Activities of Daily Living* directed by Beth Bornstein Dunnington, which premiered at the Kahilu in 2020. Post Covid, Joanna received rave reviews for her show at the 2022 Edinburgh Festival Fringe where she performed 26 shows in 27 days. Currently, Joanna is working on a short film and a children's book and is delighted to be part of HPAF.



MAUREEN MORRISSEY — Cherubino, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Maureen Morrissey, from Boulder, Colorado, is currently getting her bachelors in Music Theater and Vocal Performance at Oklahoma City University. Recent opera roles include, "Old Lady" in *Strawberry Fields*, "Mama McCort" in *The Ballad Of Baby Doe* and Chorus in *Die Lustigen Weiber Von Windsor*. She has also portrayed "Mrs. Tottendale" in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, "Jack's Mother" in *Into The Woods*, "Kira" in *Xanadu*, "Rona Lisa Parette" in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, "Bad Idea Bear" in *Avenue Q*, and "Vi" in *Footloose*. She is a featured singer in the Jazz Ensemble at Oklahoma City University. Maureen studied in Italy at the Accademia Dell'Arte Opera Program. She has the pleasure of studying with professors Jeffrey Picon, Joe Fitzgerald and Chuck Koslowsky. And she is very proud to be a part of the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



HENRY MORTON — **Henrik, *A Little Night Music***

Henry Morton (He/Him) is 21 years old and finishing his final year at the University of Oregon's School of Music and Dance with a BA in applied voice and a minor in theatre arts. He will be pursuing his masters degree in vocal performance for musical theatre at Arizona State University during the coming year. Recent credits include *Frankenstein: Playing With Fire* (Frankenstien), *She Loves Me* (Georg Nowack), and *Newsies* (Jack Kelly). Off of the stage Henry finds fulfillment by singing with the University of Oregon's Chamber Choir who took home two world championship titles at last summer's World Choir Games in Auckland NZ



AYLA MULOCK — **Fredrika, *A Little Night Music***

Ayla Mulock (Fredrika) is so excited and grateful to be a part of the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival experience! She is currently a second year undergraduate student at New York University in the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Previous credits include Sarah Brown (*Guys and Dolls*), Olive Ostrovsky (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), and Protean (*A Funny Thing... Forum*).



TED NGOO — **Count Carl-Magnus, *A Little Night Music***

Ted Ngoo is an actor and singer. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Voice Performance at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at the National University of Singapore (YSTCM) in 2024. Ted graduated from the School of the Arts, Singapore (SOTA) in 2017, and was also part of YSTCM's Young Artist Programme between 2016 and 2017. Ted recently completed his actor training in Young and Wild, a professional acting training programme led by award-winning director Edith Podesta, organised by Singaporean theatre company Wild Rice. Some of Ted's credits include Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight* by L'Arietta Productions in 2022 (Busboy), YSTCM's staging of *The Fantasticks* in 2023 (Bellamy), Bellini's *La Sonnambula* by The Opera People in 2023 (Ensemble), and Wild Rice's production of Alfian Sa'at's and Neo Hai Bin's play *Merdeka / 獨立 / சுதந்திரம்* in 2025 (Mark Tan/Sultan Mahmud III/Dr Charles Paglar/Lee Kuan Yew). Ted is also the founder of Serious Arts Collective, a musical theatre collective aimed at connecting audiences through humorous, sincere and impactful storytelling on stage.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



ANNA PORTER — *Fredrika, A Little Night Music*

Anna Porter is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major at Otterbein University, originally from Annapolis, Maryland, with double minors in Dance and Journalism. Most recently, she appeared as Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* with Otterbein Summer Theatre. Some of her other credits include Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins* and Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*—two dream roles that sparked her love for bold, larger-than-life characters and heartfelt storytelling. Endless gratitude to her mentors, professors, friends, and ever-supportive family for their constant encouragement. Special thanks to the creative team for this incredible opportunity. Enjoy the show! @annavictoriaaa_



RUBY RECHT-APPEL — *Chorus/Barbarina (cover), The Marriage of Figaro*

Ruby Recht-Appel is a 20-year-old soprano from San Francisco, California. She currently lives in Appleton, Wisconsin and studies at Lawrence University Conservatory pursuing a degree in Vocal Performance. Her primary voice professor is the celebrated soprano Estelí Gomez. Recently, Recht-Appel sang in Lawrence's 2025 Spring Opera Scenes performance as the role of Tisbe from Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. She also performed the roles of Second Lady from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Bud from *Bat Boy: The Musical* in Lawrence University's Fall Opera Scenes performance. This past school year she was an assistant stage manager for the mainstage opera *The Consul*, as well as a co-president and section leader of Cantala, the premier treble choir at Lawrence. She has also participated in the last two years of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association All State Collegiate Choir. Originally, she was a member of the San Francisco Girls Chorus. For twelve years she worked with collaborators in California as well as on tours in Hawaii, France, and England. She was a soloist for various SFGC performances and projects, her last being the role of Angeles Monrayo in Matthew Welch's premiere of the choral opera *Tomorrow's Memories: A Little Manila Diary* in 2023.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



ANDRÉS ALEJANDRO LÓPEZ ROMERO — **Count Almaviva, *The Marriage of Figaro***

Andrés Alejandro, baritone singer of classical music, ballads, boleros and Mexican music. Andres studied classical singing in the UNAM Music Faculty in Mexico City. Andres 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 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*, Peter Quince from Britten’s *A 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 song repertoire with music from Schumann, Schubert, Hugo Wolf, Debussy, and Gabriel Fauré. He continues his voice studies with the soprano Jennifer McGregor.



DALLAS SAXER — Chorus/Cherubino (cover), ***The Marriage of Figaro***

Dallas Saxer is a recent graduate of The Mannes School of Music, where she honed her craft as a vocalist with a deep passion for performance. This fall, Dallas will continue her artistic journey by pursuing a Master’s degree in Vocal Performance at New York University. Her recent credits include *La tasse Chinois* in *L’enfant et les sortilèges* and Verdi’s *Messa da Requiem*. With a commitment to expressive storytelling, Dallas loves to make her audience feel as if they are in the opera themselves.



WENXIN SHA — Count Almaviva, ***The Marriage of Figaro***

Wenxin Sha is a Chinese Baritone who has performed in numerous operas, including *Die Fledermaus*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Pasquale*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Don Giovanni*. He played Falke, Don Alfanzo, Malatesta, Speaker of Temple in these recent years. Wenxin has played Commissioner of *Madama Butterfly* in Opera Connecticut and Speaker of *Die Zauberflöte* in Jordan Hall and MassOpera. Sha graduated BM and MM from East China Normal University in

2019, from University of Hartford in 2021, and from New England Conservatory of Music in 2023. He is attending his doctoral study at LSU. Sha is studying with Professor Robert Grayson and Professor Paul Grove at LSU.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



SOLOMON SHUMATE — Antonio,
The Marriage of Figaro

Solomon Shumate, 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 in 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 2023 Kahilu Theatre concert called Operaloha with three other professional opera singers. 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 guest artist with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival!



JULIA CECILIA STARR — Susanna,
The Marriage of Figaro

Honduran-American soprano Julia Cecilia Starr is a passionate and dedicated young singer who strives to embody the ethereal artistry of opera. Currently in her second year of undergraduate studies at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music, she studies under the distinguished American soprano Cynthia Clayton. As a second-semester sophomore, Ms. Starr showcases a maturity and thoughtfulness like that of a professional opera singer. In the face of personal and

musical challenges, she seeks out solutions with determination and resilience. As a rising musician and vocal pedagogue, Ms. Starr has earned recognition through her membership in numerous prestigious choral ensembles and participation in concert works like Händel's *Theodora*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*. Most importantly, she has graced the stage in several operas with the Moores Opera Center, including *Così Fan Tutte*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Turandot*. Ms. Starr is wholly dedicated to her craft and the profound impact she has on those around her. Her motto is "Humility is the posture I choose when I face life's uncertainties —my ambition is not to assume all knowledge but to relish in the journey of knowing." She is equally celebrated as a talented, driven vocalist and a passionate, sensitive artist.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



MICHAEL STEBBINS — *Fredrik, A Little Night Music*

Michael Stebbins is a tenor from Charleston, South Carolina! He recently graduated from Clemson University, having studied Performing Arts-Voice and Economics. Most recently, he played Jack in Clemson's production of *Into the Woods* and won Clemson's Concerto Competition, allowing him to sing an aria with the Clemson Symphony Orchestra in April. He has competed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competitions for the past four years, having competed at the national level multiple times for both classical and musical theatre. Michael enjoys studying both Opera and Musical Theatre styles of singing and plans to pursue a Masters in Music in Vocal Performance beginning in the fall of 2025. Michael is incredibly excited to explore and perform the role of Frederik and can't wait for you all to see this wonderfully captivating show! Instagram: @michaelcstebbins.



TABETHA STEEGE — *Countess Rosina, The Marriage of Figaro*

Tabetha Steege is thrilled to return to the stage as Contessa Rosina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. This past season, Tabetha delighted audiences as Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* with Brew City Opera, Nymph 1 in *Rusalka* with Milwaukee Opera Theatre, and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* with Brew City Opera. Her repertoire also includes the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* and Cinderella in *Into the Woods* with Racine Theatre Guild, as well as the titular role of *Suor Angelica* and Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* with the Berlin Opera Academy. Tabetha's performances have been praised for their technical precision and emotional depth. As a versatile artist, she has performed as the Soprano Soloist in notable works like Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Belle Ensemble, and Faure's *Requiem*. She has also premiered new works, including The Assistant in the world premiere of *It'll Never Work* at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. In addition to her performance career, Tabetha serves on the Board of Directors for Brew City Opera, contributing to the company's artistic and operational success.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



ALEXANDRA THOMPSON — Susanna, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Soprano Alexandra Thompson is currently pursuing her master's in music at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Most recently she performed as Sister Constance in Francis Poulenc's *Dialogue des Carmélites* with The University of Tennessee Knoxville's Opera Theater. Alexandra is thrilled to be revisiting the role of Susanna in Hawaii Performing Arts Festival's 2025 production of *Le nozze di Figaro*, which she first performed during her undergraduate degree at Kennesaw

State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Following Hawaii, Alexandra will be joining the Dramatic Voices Program Berlin's 2025 production of Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* where she will be singing the role of Naiad and will be participating in the Berlin Lieder Akademie & Festival. Other notable performances include Elisetta in Domenico Cimarosa's *Il matrimonio segreto*, and Gretel in Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. She has also performed in various opera scenes productions where she has explored a wide variety of musical styles and languages. Alexandra strives to create relatable characters with a strong focus on storytelling through expressive language.



DOROTHEA UNWIN — Marcellina, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Dorothea Unwin is a young and budding Canadian artist who recently graduated from the University of Toronto. Described as having 'warm and rich mezzo tone,' Dorothea made their operatic debut in 2022 in SOLT's productions of Menotti's *The Consul* and Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. She made her acting debut in November of 2024 in TCDS' production of *Muder on the Orient Express*, with reviews marking them as one of the "standout performances". Dorothea has

explored various genres including Art Song, Opera, Musical Theatre, and Jazz. She has recorded vocals for video games, and has been in the chorus of the Glenn Gould School's production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and COSA's *Pirates of Penzance*. Additionally, she takes an interest in music relating to her Chinese and Afghan heritage. She has studied Chinese Art Song throughout her career at U of T, and was a part of *A Window to a Dream*, a project taking opera classics and translating them into Persian. Recent performances include being a guest soloist at Toronto's Arts and Letters Club, *Opera 202* with Opera Revue, and opening for Stratford Summer Music's Art Song Showcase.

DEVELOPING SINGERS



GWERN MORUS WILLIAMS — Mr. Lindquist/Henrik (understudy), *A Little Night Music*

Originally from the Land of Song—Wales—Gwern Morus Williams resides in the quaint hamlet of Penmynydd on the Isle of Anglesey. He recently completed his undergraduate degree in Performing at The Welsh Academy of Voice and Drama in Cardiff and is thrilled to have been awarded a scholarship to pursue a Master of Music in Vocal Performance: Musical Theatre at NYU Steinhardt, beginning this September. Throughout his career, he has received numerous accolades, including first prize at The

Urdd, the largest youth festival in Europe. His passion for musical theatre has led to lead roles in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Whistle Down the Wind*, as well as a place in the Welsh National Opera's 2023 tour of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. From a young age, he portrayed the character of Owain on the Welsh-language soap opera *Rownd a Rownd* on S4C, a role he held until the age of 18. This summer, he is honored to join the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival as part of the Developing Singer Program,



JONGHO WOO — Figaro, *The Marriage of Figaro*

Jongho Woo recently graduated from the Mannes School of Music, where he studied with baritone Stephen Powell. In 2024, he performed the role of Masetto in Mannes Opera's production of *Don Giovanni* and also covered the role of Leporello. Last summer, he participated in the CLA in Berkshire Program, where he performed a variety of Mozart arias and ensemble works. This fall, he will begin his studies and performances at the Boston University Opera Institute.



XUEYING YE — Chorus/Barbarina (cover), *The Marriage of Figaro*

Xueying Ye was previously a Chinese folk singer and is currently a graduate student at the University of Memphis, specializing in vocal performance as a soprano. Xueying is also a voice teacher and has her own vocal studio. She participated in the Lanzarote Opera Festival in Spain, where she performed the role of Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Xueying has received several awards, including the Silver Award in the Adult Graduate Group at the 2023 Japan

Osaka Kobe International Arts Festival, First Prize in the 4th APEX International Music Competition in 2023, and Second Prize in Voice at The 11th New York Artist International Competition in 2023.

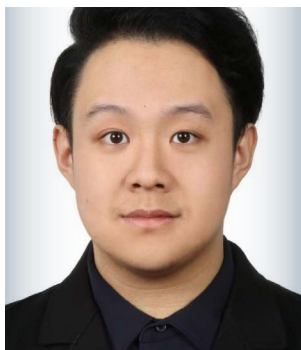
DEVELOPING SINGERS



JINGXUAN ZHANG — Countess Charlotte Malcolm, *A Little Night Music*

Jingxuan Zhang is thrilled to return to HP AF, where she made her festival debut last summer as Aunt March in *Little Women*. Originally from Tangshan, Hebei, China, she has appeared in numerous television and film productions including *Class in Three Years*, *Q Love Story*, and *Please, Eight Hours*. Jingxuan holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from Tianjin Conservatory and studied at the Arrigo Pedrollo Conservatory in Vicenza, Italy. She is currently pursuing her M.M. in Vocal Performance:

Music Theatre at NYU Steinhardt. Recently, she was honored with the Silver Award at the Aegean International Vocal Arts Festival. Jingxuan extends heartfelt thanks to her parents and to Justin John Moniz for their continued support.



LI ZHENGHAO — Mr. Erlanson, *A Little Night Music*

Li Zhenghao is a young musical theatre student actor. He earned his bachelor's degree from Berklee College of Music and is currently pursuing his Master's in Musical Theatre at NYU. Li has originated roles in several Chinese original musicals, including *The Search of Sound*, *Carrots*, and *Mozart*. He also starred as the second male lead in the film adaptation of *The Search of Sound*, performing the movie's theme song along with its full soundtrack. The film was selected for screening at the Berlin International Film Festival.

HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS



EVAN ALENA — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Hailing from Voorhees, New Jersey, Evan Alena is a 19-year-old performer currently taking a gap year to focus on intensive training in singing, acting, and dance through a local college preparatory program. Evan has been passionate about musical theatre since the age of nine, performing in numerous productions with companies such as the Voorhees Theatre Company and the Walnut Street Theatre. Recent credits include Emmett in *Legally Blonde* and Kristoff in *Frozen the*

Musical at Eastern Regional High School—New Jersey’s only high school to stage the Broadway adaptation. Evan also portrayed Bobby Strong in *Urinetown* and has sung with the All South Jersey Chorus. Offstage, he enjoys books, movies, and songwriting. Evan is grateful for the meaningful friendships and sense of community theatre has brought into his life and is honored to perform in Hawai‘i.



KONRAD FILBECK — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Konrad Filbeck is a sixteen-year-old high school sophomore. He is a baritone with experience in choir, opera, and solo performance. Konrad has been studying vocal music for five years, starting in popular music and switching to classical. One of the recent highlights of his short singing career has been placing first in his division in the 2024 Maryland NATS Classical Singing competition. Konrad has had opportunities

to sing with a variety of age groups. For example, he has performed Mozart’s *Requiem* with the National Presbyterian Church Choir and the National Anthem at Nationals Park with his middle school choir. Konrad’s music preferences range from Italian arias to the rock lyrics of Weezer. He is currently learning acapella techniques with two groups in addition to performing with the Chamber choir, all at Whitman High School in Bethesda and he just started learning to play the guitar.

HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS



MIRIAM MATHAN — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana* & High School Singer Vocal Showcase

Miriam Mathan is an 18 year old student from Seattle, Washington. As a senior at Ballard High School, Miriam is a member of multiple competition choirs and a competitive soloist. Miriam has studied a number of choral works including Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Mathew Sheppard*, Handel's *Messiah*, and *To Repair* by Tesfa Wondemagegnehu; performing with the Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum at Carnegie Hall at the 2023 Top Choirs of America Convergence Concert. As a soloist, Miriam recently won 1st place in the Mezzo-soprano category of the WMEA Solo and Ensemble Competition. Miriam is also very involved in theater, recently competing in the Washington State North Thesby's Competition and receiving both national qualifying and state honoree recognition and also playing Hermes in her high school's production of *Hadestown: Teen Edition*. Miriam will be studying psychology and statistics at the University of Washington in the Fall on the path of completing a PhD and expanding research on the impact of music therapy.



DONNA "FLINT" MAVROS — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana* & High School Singer Vocal Showcase

Donna "Flint" Mavros will be entering her Junior year at California School of the Arts in the Musical Theatre Conservatory. She most recently was Ms. Norbury in *Mean Girls the Musical* (May 2025) and Scrooge in *Scrooge the Musical* (November 2024-all girl production) with the Musical Theatre Academy of Orange County. In addition, she was ensemble and the understudy for the Queen in *Once Upon a Mattress* (March 2025) and a vocalist in an all school Gala Event (May 2025) at California School of the Arts. Previous roles include *Something Rotten* (2024), Brother Jeremiah; *The Prom* (2024), Mrs. Green; *Anything Goes* (2023), Ms. Evangeline Harcourt; and *Into the Woods* (2022), Stepmother, Granny.



CLAIRE SOBKOVIK — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana* & High School Singer Vocal Showcase

Claire Sobkoviak is from Los Angeles, California and recently graduated from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts as a vocal major. She was also a part of the theatre, opera, and musical theatre department at her school. Some past roles that she has done include: Cunegonde (*Candide*), Mabel (*Pirates of Penzance*), and Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*). She plans to study Vocal Performance in college. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support.

HIGH SCHOOL SINGERS



MAYA TAKANABE — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana* & High School Singer Vocal Showcase

Maya is a high school student currently residing in the US. She is well known as a singer on TikTok, posting videos of herself playing an acoustic guitar and singing cover songs. January 2024, her rich and powerful voice caught the attention of music producer, Yoko Kanno, and eventually led her participation as a main singer in the song “Blue feat. Maya” for Honda’s global campaign. In July of the same year, Maya was selected by m-flo, a music unit consisting of ☆Taku Takahashi and VERBAL, for the first single in their revived love series, and “Hypernova / m-flo loves Maya” was released. She performed as a dancer in the high school production of *Cabaret* as Helga. She also performed in the high school production of *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as Midge Mahoney.



HELENA TZVETKOVA — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana* & High School Singer Vocal Showcase

Helena Tzvetkova grew up in a rich musical world. She began playing classical guitar at the age of five through Indiana University Jacobs Guitar Academy and later joined the Indiana University Children’s Choir. Upon entering high school, she was admitted to Sounds of South, her high school’s state renowned show choir, and gradually rose up as one of its leaders. She appeared in the ensemble for the musical *Carousel*, as Gentry Cummings in *Oklahoma*, and as Eponine in *Les Misérables*. Most recently, she held the lead role of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. Helena’s musical talent extends beyond her high school career. Since the age of ten, she has participated in five Indiana University Jacobs School of Music Opera Theater productions, including *Peter Grimes*, Bernstein’s *Mass*, *Parsifal*, *Suor Angelica* (Angel), and *Gianni Schicchi* (Gherardino). She has also been a member of the IU Jacobs Guitar Academy for thirteen years, where she played numerous solo and chamber recitals. After completing high school, she is looking to pursue further studies in musical theater and explore more options.



AURELIA WIGGINS — Chorus, *The Marriage of Figaro* | Soloist, *Ohana* & High School Singer Vocal Showcase

Aurelia Wiggins is an emerging vocal artist based in New York City, currently training at Bloomingdale School of Music where she was the 2024 Project Bridge Full-Scholarship recipient. Last fall she performed Daisy Spedden in the workshop reading of *Unsinkable Women: Stories and Songs from the Titanic*. Ms. Wiggins performs regularly with the Broadway Start Project including their Dance for Hope fundraisers. She was just awarded 1st place in the 2025 Bloomingdale Performance Competition - advanced category, the previous year she won this competition in the upper-intermediate category. This Spring Aurelia made her Symphony Space debut performing a world premiere composition with A4TY: *Album for the Young*.

OHANA SINGERS



MARILYN BERNHARDT — Soloist, *Ohana & High School 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'.



CAROL BROWN — Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Carol Brown, a retired mathematician and Boston tax lawyer, has lived in Honaunau since 2010. Widowed in 2020, Carol now lives with her two dogs. She has volunteered for HPAF in the past and has participated in its Lifelong Singers program several times. She sings alto with Kona Choral Society. Carol loves singing and bringing music to the world!



MALIA ELISABETH DAUE — Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Malia Elisabeth Daue is an emerging vocalist, pianist, and composer entering her junior year. She is a founding member of the Trinity Academy Chamber Choir, a member of Trinitones, and sang with the Trinity Academy High School Choir. She made her stage debut at age six and performed the following year as a dancer in Nā Pua o ka Pakipika, a Polynesian arts showcase held at the National Geographic Museum. In the summer, she is in residence on the Big

Island, where she sings with the choir at Ascension Mission Catholic Church in Puakō. Malia's recent performances include Festival of Lights at the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother (December 2024), A Celebration in Word and Song (December 2024), and Trinity Academy's Night of Wonder (April 2025). Her original composition, "Matthew 28:1-6 (Do Not Be Afraid)"—a piece for SATB choir and string orchestra—premiered at Trinity Academy's Spring Fine Arts Night in May 2025. Malia has studied voice, composition, and piano with a number of notable teachers, including Christopher Fotinakis (BA in Music, University of Portland), Daniel Rosales (BFA in Music, California State University, Chico), and Larissa Hawk (music and drama educator with a background in youth theater).

OHANA SINGERS



STEVEN KAPLAN — Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Steve Kaplan, baritone, is looking forward to his thirteenth (!) season as an 'Ohana/Lifelong Singer with HPAF. He enjoys art songs, Early Music, opera, and contemporary artists such as the late Eva Cassidy and Sara Bareilles. Steve loves singing choral music and performs with the Waimea Community Chorus, the Kona Choral Society, and the Pacific Chorale Choral Festival. He has had the pleasure of being a chorister in performances conducted by Morten Lauridsen and Mark Hayes, and has

participated in past HPAF productions featuring works by Purcell, Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan, and Ricky Ian Gordon. Steve values the teaching and encouragement of the staff and his fellow participants and is eagerly anticipating another exciting experience as an 'Ohana Singer in 2025! *P.S.: Steve is retiring from medical practice in June and will have more time to work on his vocal technique and presentation...*



FINNEGAN LEDUC — Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Finnegan is a rising 8th grader at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy and a dedicated young performer with a passion for the arts. Most recently, she portrayed the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of OZ* Youth Edition and Jojo in *Seussical Jr.* at HPA. She is currently a student at Prince Dance Institute and participates in Kahilu Performing Arts classes. Finnegan has also performed in multiple shows at French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts in New York and Waimea Community Theater, gaining

valuable experience and expanding her performance repertoire. Outside of the stage, she enjoys spending time with her dog, Mochi, and diving into fantasy novels.



PINKBONITA — Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

"Synchronicity" and "Play all Day" by singer songwriter Bonnie PinkBonita Love align therapy with songwriting. Take your feelings and put them in a song to remind you of who you want to BE. Sing your anthem to yourself in your times of need. There's no better way to remember proven psychology techniques than to put them in a song you sing to yourself to remind you of who you want to BE.

OHANA SINGERS



RUBY OSHIRO — Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Ruby Oshiro is a 12-year-old performer from Waimea, Hawai'i, where her family operates a vegetable farm. She is entering the 7th grade and has been actively involved in the HPA Middle School musical productions for the past two years. Most recently, she delighted audiences as Toto in *The Wizard of Oz*. Ruby is passionate about singing, dancing, acting, and songwriting, and she especially loves musical theatre.

Whether she's learning new lines, rehearsing choreography, or performing on stage, Ruby brings joy and dedication to every role. Her dream is to become a professional singer and one day attend a school for the performing arts.



SHANON SIDELL — Soloist, *Ohana & High School Singer Vocal Showcase*

Shanon Sidell is a naturopathic doctor and acupuncturist who moonlights as an aerial circus arts teacher. She most recently performed in Waimea's *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *The Vagina Monologues*. She was an Artist in Residence for the State of Alaska, bringing theater productions and workshops to rural bush communities. Most summers she serves as a new plays reader for the Valdez, Alaska Theatre Conference, and once performed Edward Albee's work with him in the audience.

Her passion lies in musical theatre having worked as a full company member for three years in Norway. Her most cherished stage moments are playing Lady MacBeth at Santiago, Chile's Teatro Militar shortly after its return to democracy following the last dictatorship, and singing Verdi's *Requiem* within the double choir at Carnegie Hall. She is delighted to sing, act, work and play alongside the HPAF Ohana.



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