Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, UMD School of Music and Maryland Opera Studio Present:

**OPERA SCENE STUDY**
A performance by the First-Year Graduate Students of the Maryland Opera Studio and members of the Collaborative Piano Graduate Program

Craig Kier, director, Maryland Opera Studio

Thursday, May 7, 2015 . 7:30PM
Friday, May 8, 2015 . 7:30PM
Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Program

**LA CENERENTOLA**
By Gioachino Rossini, libretto by Jacopo Ferretti
Director David Gram, pianist Zsolt Balogh

- **CLORINDA** Laynee Dell Woodward
- **TISBE** Louisa Waycott
- **ANGELINA** Nicole Levesque
- **ALIDORO** Daren Jackson
- **CHORUS** Anthony Duke Eversole, Alec Feiss, Matthew Hill

**ROMÉO ET JULIETTE**
By Charles Gounod, libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré
Director Nick Olcott, pianist Alex Chan, coach David Chavannes

- **JULIETTE** Ava Wing
- **ROMÉO** Alec Feiss

**LITTLE WOMEN**
By Mark Adamo
Director Kasi Campbell, pianist Christopher Koelzer

- **BETH** Chelsea Davidson
- **JO** Nicole Levesque
ORFEO ED EURIDICE
By C.W. Gluck, libretto by Ranieri de’ Calzabigi
Director Nick Olcott, pianist Nadezda Miljatovic-Sekicki
EURIDICE Ava Wing
ORFEO Louisa Waycott

RIGOLETTO
By Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Francesco Maria Piave
Director Bobb Robinson, pianist Milena Gligić
GILDA Laynee Dell Woodward
RIGOLETTO Anthony Duke Eversole
SPARAFUCILE Daren Jackson
GIOVANNA Nicole Levesque
DUKE Matthew Hill

-INTERMISSION-

DON GIOVANNI
By W.A. Mozart, libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
Director Colin Hovde, pianist David Chavannes
DONNA ANNA Chelsea Davidson
DONNA ELVIRA Louisa Waycott
DON OTTAVIO Alec Feiss
DON GIOVANNI Anthony Duke Eversole

DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL
By W.A. Mozart, libretto by Gottlieb Stephanie
Director Bobb Robinson, pianist Alexei Ulitin
BELMONTE Matthew Hill
OSMIN Daren Jackson

IL MATRIMONIO SEGRETO
By Domenico Cimarosa, libretto by Giovanni Bertati
Director David Gram, pianist Saeha Youn
FIDALMA Nicole Levesque
CAROLINA Ava Wing
ELISSETA Chelsea Davidson

STREET SCENE
By Kurt Weill, libretto by Langston Hughes and Elmer Rice
Director Nick Olcott, pianist Hsiang-Ling Hsiao
LIPPO FLORENTINO Matthew Hill
GRETA FLORENTINO Laynee Dell Woodward
OLGA OLSEN Louisa Waycott
HENRY DAVIS Alec Feiss
GEORGE JONES Anthony Duke Eversole
CARL OLSEN Daren Jackson
OTHER NEIGHBORS Chelsea Davidson, Nicole Levesque, Ava Wing
Nick Olcott, director, serves as Director of Acting for the Maryland Opera Studio. His MOS credits include Die Fledermaus, Die Zauberflöte, Amelia al Ballo, Die Entführung aus dem Serail, L’élisir d’amore, Le nozze di Figaro, Serse, The Turn of the Screw and Così fan tutte. He is a frequent coach and stage director for the Washington National Opera Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. Professional opera credits include Wolf Trap Opera, Opera Cleveland, Boston Lyric Opera, the In Series, Pine Mountain Music Festival and Ash Lawn Opera Festival. Theatre credits include Arena Stage, the Philadelphia Theatre Company and Round House Theatre. He directs frequently for Opera Lafayette, most recently their pairing of Mozart’s Così fan tutte (performed in French) with Philidor’s Les femmes vengées, which played at The Kennedy Center in Washington, Lincoln Center in New York and the Opéra Royal in Versailles. His production of the reggae musical Bob Marley’s Three Little Birds recently ran off-Broadway at the New Victory Theater in New York. Upcoming projects include L’opéra villageoise for Opera Lafayette and the world premiere of Garfield, the Musical with Cattitude at Adventure Theatre/Musical Theater Center.

Justina Lee, principal coach, joined the faculty of the University of Maryland, College Park in 2008 as Music Director of the Maryland Opera Studio. She has worked as an assistant conductor, pianist and coach for the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the Glimmerglass Festival, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the Wolf Trap Opera Company, the Castleton Festival, the CoOperative Program at Rider University and Centro Studi Italiani in Urbania, Italy. Lee received a Master of Music in accompanying from the Manhattan School of Music as well as a Master of Music in piano performance from the University of California, Los Angeles. Concert performances include recitals with tenor Lawrence Brownlee as well as residencies with the Marilyn Horne Foundation and Lorin Maazel’s Châteauville Foundation.

Kasi Campbell, director, returns to the Maryland Opera Studio where she directed Albert Herring and this season’s The Old Maid and the Thief. She has also directed at Rep Stage, Washington Stage Guild, Theatre Alliance, WSC Avant Bard, Source Theatre, National Puppetry Center, University of Connecticut, Catholic University and Indiana University. Local productions have garnered 31 Helen Hayes nominations (including four for Outstanding Director, two for Outstanding Production and two for Outstanding Ensemble) and seven Helen Hayes Awards (Outstanding Director Award for The Dazzle). She is an associate professor at Howard Community College, and served as the Associate Artistic Director of Rep Stage for its first 14 years. She has also designed for the Washington Ballet, designed and performed puppetry for an NBC children’s series and served as a theatre panelist for the Maryland State Arts Council.

David Gram, director, originally from Toronto, is a DC-based theatre and opera director, dramaturg, actor and teacher. He is proud to be entering his third year as the Associate Artistic Director/Apprentice Program Coordinator of Theatre Aspen. Gram has directed and produced more than 60 productions across the U.S. and Canada. Recent opera directing credits include Amahl and the Night Visitors, Macbeth, the New England premiere of Jake Heggie’s opera Dead Man Walking, Orpheus in the Underworld, La bohème, Cendrillon and The Magic Flute. Gram received his MFA in Directing and a Graduate Certificate in Arts Administration from Boston University, where he was adjunct performance faculty with both the BU School of Theatre and the BU Opera Institute.

Colin Hovde, director, is a DC-based freelance director, and Producing Artistic Director of Theater Alliance where he has directed Spark, The Wonderful World of Dissocia, In On It, How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found and Hum. As a freelance director his work has been seen around DC in theaters such as Rorschach Theatre, The In Series, The Washington Savoyards, Adventure Theatre
MTC and The Kennedy Center as well as abroad in China and in the Republic of Georgia. Hovde is a member of SDC and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

**Bobb Robinson, director,** has performed with many nationally renowned ensembles including the Washington Bach Consort, The Denver Bach Society, The Montana Early Music Festival, the National Gallery of Art Vocal Ensemble and on NPR’s “All Things Considered.” Robinson has been a featured performer on recordings with the choirs of Washington National Cathedral, as well as the recent Clear Note Records release of Brahms vocal chamber music, *Liebestreu.* An innovative collaborator, Robinson conceived and performed “Twentyfour: Italian Songs and Arias for a New Century,” a narrative presentation of 17th- and 18th-century Italian song for voice and percussion ensemble. Recently he co-wrote and performed an original cabaret, *Une soiree a l’Olympia,* presented as part of “Paris on the Potomac,” Washington DC’s year-long celebration of French art and culture. He has served on the faculties of Shenandoah Conservatory, Jacksonville University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and currently teaches voice and directs stage productions at Shepherd University.

**Zsolt Balogh** (Tapolca, Hungary), *pianist,* began studying piano at age five. He received a master’s degree in piano from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music where he studied with András Kemenes. He has appeared at the Béla Bartók National Concert Hall, the Great Concert Hall at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music and extensively as a collaborative pianist in cities throughout Canada and the United States. He graduated with a MM in collaborative piano from The Juilliard School in 2014 and is currently pursuing a DMA in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland.

**Alex Chan** (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), *pianist,* is currently pursuing his Masters in Collaborative Piano, studying with Prof. Rita Sloan at UMD. He graduated with a Bachelor’s in Music in piano performance from UCSI University (Malaysia) in 2012. He played for many singing competitions, including the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). He was also a member of the UCSI Concert Choir, the Dithyrambic Singers and a voice minor student of Dr. Yap Jin Hin and Assoc. Prof. Ian Lim.

**David Chavannes** (Montego Bay, Jamaica), *pianist,* is a versatile musician committed to collaboration with other artists. He holds degrees in conducting and piano, and has studied the flute, recorder, harpsichord and voice. These diverse experiences comprise the wide vocabulary from which Chavannes draws in his partnerships with other performers. He feels a mandate to engage his community through music, whether to help listeners escape the tedium of daily life or to stir listeners to contemplate their lives from different perspectives.

**Chelsea Davidson** (Chattanooga, TN), *soprano,* has performed roles as Eliza Doolittle/*My Fair Lady,* Susanna/*Le nozze di Figaro* and Donna Elvira/*Don Giovanni.* She has been a soloist for Mozart’s Requiem, Haydn’s Missa Brevis in F, Hops and Opera, and for President Obama’s Second Inauguration with the Lee University Festival Choir. She has placed first for the National Association of Teachers of Singing’s Regional Auditions two years consecutively and second in her division for the National Finals. She holds a BM in vocal performance from Lee University and is currently a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio studying with Carmen Balthrop.

**Anthony Duke Eversole** (Bountiful, UT), *baritone,* was most recently the baritone soloist in UMD’s performance of Brahms’ German Requiem. Operatic roles include the title roles in Verdi’s *Falstaff,* Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi* and Sondheim’s *Sweeney Todd,* as well as Sharpless/*Madama Butterfly,* Papageno/*Die Zauberflöte,* Vidal Hernandez/*Luisa Fernanda* and Belcore/*Lélisir d’amore.* He holds a Master of Music degree in voice from the University of Oklahoma and Bachelor of Music degree from Utah State University. Eversole is a doctoral candidate in opera and a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio studying with Dominic Cossa.
Alec Feiss (Bath, OH), tenor, is a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio studying with Gran Wilson. During this season he portrayed Milo/A Family Reunion, and covered Count Alberto/Locca- sione fa il ladro and Le thèière/L’enfant et les sortilèg- es. In 2013 he was a CATS member at the Castleton Music Festival where he covered Harry/La fanciulla del West. In 2012, he performed First Armored Man/Monostatos/Die Zauberflöte with the Astoria Music Festival. He completed his undergraduate degree at the Oberlin Conservatory in 2012 studying with Julien Robbins.

Milena Gligić (Belgrade, Serbia), pianist, is a DMA Collaborative Piano student of Rita Sloan. Gligić previously studied at University of Arts in Belgrade and Mannes College in New York City. She was a Piano Fellow at Bard College and at Aspen Music Festival and staff pianist at the festival Opera Siena. Before she came to the United States in 2010, she traveled around the world as a singer and pianist with the female choir Collegium Musicum. She is a member of Contemporaneous ensemble in New York City. Gligić also studies voice with Carmen Balthrop and she is a member of Bulgarian folk dance ensemble Zharava in DC.

Matthew Hill (Laurel, MD), tenor, received his Bachelor of Music from the University of Maryland, College Park where he frequently performed as a soloist in the School of Music’s Bach Cantata se- ries. Recent roles include Tamino/Die Zauberflöte, Damon/Acis and Galatea, Mark/Rent and Matt/ The Fantasticks. Hill sings with St. John’s Lafayette Square and is also a soloist and chorister with the Washington Bach Consort and Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Upcoming engagements include the tenor soloist in Rachmaninoff Vespers with the Wash- ington Master Chorale and Opera Saratoga’s Studio Artist program.

Hsiang-Ling Hsiao (Changhua, Taiwan), pianist, is a fourth-year doctoral student in Collaborative Piano studying under Rita Sloan. She holds her MM from UMD and BM with University Honors from UT Austin. Hsiao has spent three summers at the Aspen Music Festival and School on the New Horizons Fellowship, and one summer as a staff pianist. Her passions for both instrumental and vocal accompanying are so strong that she could not imagine a more fulfilling life. Hsiao has studied with Gregory Allen, and performed in masterclass- es with Christoph Eschenbach and Leon Fleisher, among others.

Daren Jackson (Winston Salem, NC), bass, received his undergraduate degree from North Carolina School of the Arts, and was in productions including Turandot, Maria Stuarda and L’elisir d’amore. In 2014, Jackson was awarded the Peg Gary and Atlanta Opera Guild Encouragement Award in the Southeast Regional Finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. After winning the Mondavi Young Artists Competition, he was cast as the title character in the new opera, The Magic Fish. He is currently a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio studying with Dominic Cossa.

Christopher Koelzer (San Francisco, CA), pianist, started studying piano at age seven with Natalia Hanukai. He studied piano performance at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah from 2006-2011 with Dr. Irene Peery-Fox. Koelzer coached BYU’s Opera Studio for six full-stage productions, and worked with Frederica von Stade, Sherill Milnes and Jennifer Larmore. He attended the Aspen Mu- sic Festival and School in Aspen, Colorado, with full scholarship, in 2011-2012, returning as a Vocal Fellow in 2014. Koelzer received his Master of Mu- sic degree and continues his doctoral studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He studies with Rita Sloan.

Nicole Levesque (Stamford, CT), mezzo-soprano, is a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio studying with Delores Ziegler. Levesque’s previous stage credits with the Oberlin Opera Theater include Nancy/Albert Herring, Hänsel/Hänsel und Gretel, Prince Orlofsky/Die Fledermaus, Ernesto/ Il mondo della luna and La libellule/La tasse chinoise/L’enfant et les sortilèges. Levesque holds a BA
in comparative literature from Oberlin College and a BM in classical vocal performance from Oberlin Conservatory, where she studied with Lorraine Manz.

Nadezda (Nadja) Mijatovic-Sekicki (Serbia), pianist, is currently a doctoral student in collaborative piano at UMD. Last year Mijatovic-Sekicki was music director for DC Public Opera’s staged performance of Schubert’s Goethe-Lieder. Previous endeavors include participation in International Competition Das Lied (Berlin, Germany), music directing the Peabody Opera production of Ariel’s Tempest, language-coaching the opera Svadba and coaching/accompanying YAA’s Summer Institute. Mijatovic-Sekicki was coach/accompanist at the Voice Department of the University in Serbia. She holds BM and MM degrees from Serbia and graduate diplomas from Conservatoire de Musique de Lausanne (Switzerland) and Peabody Conservatory (the recipient of Peabody Career Grant and Accompanying Award). Mijatovic-Sekicki and her husband are proud parents of two wonderful children.

Alexei Ulitin (Kiev, Ukraine), pianist, actively performs as a soloist and a collaborative artist. Ulitin recently attended Aspen Music Festival as a recipient of a New Horizons Fellowship. Ulitin has won competitions with Baltimore Music Club Competition 2014, Wonderlic Piano Competition 2014 (third prize) and Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition 2013 (second prize). Ulitin holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Rowan University where he studied with Veda Zuponcic. His Master of Music degree is from the National Music Academy of Ukraine in Kiev. Currently, Ulitin is a doctoral student in Collaborative Piano at the University of Maryland, studying with Rita Sloan.

Louisa Waycott (Ketchum, ID), mezzo-soprano, has performed with Opera in the Ozarks, the International Lyric Academy, AIMS, the Neil Semer Vocal Institute, Songfest, Blue Hill Troupe, Village Light Opera, Utopia Opera, New Opera NYC, Amore Opera and St. Bartholomews. Previous roles have included Martha/lolanta, Meg/Falstaff, la zia/Madama Butterfly, Despina/Cosi fan tutte, Lady Saphir/Patience, Kate and Edith/Pirates of Penzance, Tessa/The Gondoliers, Mercedes/Carmen, Estrella/La Perichole and La Ciesca/Gianni Schicchi. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Mississippi.

Ava Wing (Saratoga Springs, NY), soprano, has performed the roles of Jason/A Family Reunion and L’ecureuil/L’enfant et les sortilèges with the Maryland Opera Studio. Wing made her New York City debut in the roles of Blonde and Erna/All Quiet on the Western Front with the Metro Chamber Orchestra. She made her operatic debut as Gretel/Hänsel und Gretel at Purchase College, where she also sang the roles of Tytania/A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Rosalinda/Die Fledermaus. Wing is a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio studying with Linda Mabbs.

Laynee Dell Woodward (Minden, NE), soprano, received her BM in vocal performance from Nebraska Wesleyan University. Most recently, Woodward has performed the title role in Léo Delibes’ Lakmé. At Wesleyan Opera, roles included Mrs. Nolan/The Medium, Queen of the Night/Die Zauberflöte and Sofia/Il signor Bruschino. In June 2013, Woodward performed the role of Olympia/Les contes d’Hoffmann with Harrower Opera in Atlanta, Georgia. Woodward is currently a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio studying with Linda Mabbs.

Saeha Youn (Toronto, CAN), pianist, made her Toronto debut with the Toronto Youth Orchestra in November 2007. She has been invited to play as a soloist and collaborator at the Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall, Canadian Opera Company, Marin Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium, Mazzoleni Concert Hall, Pérez Hall and Salle Claude-Champagne. Youn has attended the NAC Young Artist Festival Program in Ottawa, the Gijón International Piano Festival in Spain and Banff Summer Arts Festival in Alberta. A Canadian citizen from South Korea, her teachers include Marietta Orlov (University of Toronto) and Yoshikazu Nagai (San Francisco Conservatory of Music). Youn is currently pursuing her DMA degree in solo piano performance, studying with Mayron Tsong.