The Maryland Opera Studio is both a degree program and a performance ensemble within the UMD School of Music. A two-year program awarding the Master of Music in Opera Performance degree, the Studio provides complete education and training of the opera singer in preparation for professional performance. The program includes work in all areas of vocal and theatrical training, including voice & repertoire, movement & dance, language & diction, fencing & combat, mask & mime, and improvisation & acting (including a Shakespeare course).

In the First Semester, the focus is on extracting information about a character through exploration of the character’s words and music. The Second Semester concentrates on small ensemble scenes, beginning the process of investigating scenes that include multiple characters. The Third & Fourth Semesters focus on the preparation of complete roles. The choice of repertoire and roles is dependent on the singer’s voice type and the composition of the current class. Operas are carefully chosen to address the needs of each student.

Performance opportunities for Studio members include excerpt evenings, staged readings of new works, staged operas with piano in the fall and fully produced operas with orchestra every spring. The seasons are presented in The Clarice’s beautiful Ina & Jack Kay Theatre. As a performance ensemble, the Studio has a devoted following and routinely draws large audiences and critical praise for its productions.
Don Giovanni
By W.A. Mozart, libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
Director Bill Largess, pianist Milena Gligic • Conducted by Enrico Lopez-Yañez

Donna Anna ...........................................Teresa Hitchcock
Donna Elvira .......................................Loghan Bazan
Zerlina ..............................................Jaely Chamberlain
 Ottavio ..............................................Logan Webber
Masetto ..............................................Greg Voinier
Leporello .............................................Ethan Lee Greene

L’Italiana in Algeri
By Gioachino Rossini, libretto by Angelo Anelli • Director Tom Mallan, pianist Milena Gligic

Isabella .................................................Stephanie Polonio
Taddeo ................................................Gregory Voinier

Of Mice and Men
By Carlisle Floyd, libretto by Carlisle Floyd • Director Kasi Campbell, pianist Nadia Christova

Lenny ...................................................Sammy Huh
George ...............................................Ethan Lee Greene

Werther
By Jules Massenet, libretto by Edouard Blau, Paul Milliet and Georges Hartmann
Director Nick Olcott, pianist Nadija Mijatovic-Sekicki

Charlotte ..............................................Loghan Bazan
Werther ...............................................Logan Webber

The Turn of the Screw
By Benjamin Britten, libretto by Myfanwy Piper
Director Andrea Dorf McGay, pianist Alexei Ulitin

Governess .............................................Teresa Hitchcock
Flora ...................................................Jaely Chamberlain
Mrs. Gross ..........................................Stephanie Polonio
Miss Jessel ..........................................Suzanne Karpov

Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor
By Otto Nicolai, libretto by Salomon Hermann Mosenthal
Director Nick Olcott, pianist Elizabeth Brown

Anne .....................................................Suzanne Karpov
Fenton ..................................................Sammy Huh
Spärlich ..............................................Logan Webber
Caius ..................................................Ethan Lee Greene

Program is approximately 2 hours, which includes a 15-minute intermission.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

NICK OLCOTT, director, is the Interim Director of the Maryland Opera Studio, where his past productions include Die Zauberflöte, Amelia al ballo, Die Entführung aus dem Serail, L’elisir 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, for whom he directs an annual program of scenes from American opera. Other credits include Wolf Trap Opera, Opera Cleveland, Boston Lyric Opera, the In Series, Pine Mountain Music Festival and Ash Lawn Opera Festival. He directs frequently for Opera Lafayette, most recently their pairing of Mozart’s Così fan tutte (performed in French) with Philidor’s Les femmes vénérées, which played at The Kennedy Center in Washington, Lincoln Center in New York and the Opéra Royal in Versailles.

JUSTINA LEE (San Francisco, CA), studio principal coach, joined the faculty of the University of Maryland, College Park in 2008 as principal coach and music director of the graduate Maryland Opera Studio. She has worked as an assistant conductor, pianist and coach for the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the Glimmerglass Festival, Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Lorin Maazel’s Castleton Festival. 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 Lawrence Brownlee as well as residencies with the Marilyn Horne Foundation, the Châteauville Foundation, the Manchester Music Festival and the Cleveland Art Song Festival.

LOGHAN BAZAN (Baltimore, MD) mezzo-soprano, made her professional operatic debut in 2010 as Gianetta in Vera Musica’s production of Donizetti’s L’elisir d’amore. Recent engagements include performances as Laura in Maryland Opera Studio’s reading of Jack Perlis’ LovelHate, as well as Anniol La clemenza di Tito and Cherubino/The Marriage of Figaro with Undercroft Opera in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2012, Bazan was a young artist at Opera NEO in San Diego, California, where she was featured in their scenes program. In 2009, she studied and performed at the Bel Canto Institute in Florence, Italy. This summer, she will be a featured “Schubert Fellow” at SongFest in Los Angeles, California. Bazan holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in music performance (voice) from Carnegie Mellon University where she performed roles including 2nd Witch/Dido and Aeneas, Cherubino/Le nozze di Figaro and Pitti-Sing/The Mikado. Bazan is currently a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio in Delores Ziegler's studio.

ELIZABETH BROWN (Houston, TX), pianist, is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland. A member of the honor society Phi Beta Kappa, Brown graduated cum laude from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Arts in English literature and a Bachelor of Music in piano performance. She has spent several summers at the Aspen Music Festival (2007–2010), the American-Russian Institute in St. Petersburg, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival and the Opera Theater and Music Festival of Lucca. Brown is a student of Rita Sloan.

KASI CAMPBELL, director, returns to the Maryland Opera Studio where she directed last fall’s production of Albert Herring. She has directed at The Kennedy Center, Rep Stage, Washington Stage Guild, Theatre Alliance, WSC Avant Bard, Source Theatre, Spooky Action Theatre, the National Puppetry Center, Groton Center for the Arts, University of Connecticut, Catholic University and Indiana University. Her 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 (received Outstanding Director Award in 2004). Representative professional productions include Gianni Schicchi, The Piano Teacher, Tryss, The Temperamentals, The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?, Yellowman, Arcadia, Travels with My Aunt, Night and Day, The Dazzle, God’s Eye, The Judas Kiss, The Woman Who Amuses Herself, Tumour, In the Heart of America, Bach at Leipzig, Hamlet, The Seagull, The Violet Hour, Faith Healer, The Mystery of Irma Vep, The Lonesome West, The Swan, Translations, Kimberly Akimbo, Neville’s Island, Da, Jeffrey, The Road to Mecca, The Return to Morality and Ambrosia. She is an associate professor and coordinator of the Performance Acting program at Howard Community College, and served as the associate artistic director of Rep Stage during its first 14 years.

SEAN CARMICHAEL (Liberty, NY), pianist, is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland, studies piano under the direction of Mayron Tsong. As a winner of the Crane Concerto Competition, Carmichael performed Rachmaninoff’s First Concerto with the Crane Symphony Orchestra in 2007. He has given solo performances at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Rubinstein Hall in Munich, Binghamton’s Tri-Cities Opera Center and the Old Forge Arts Center, and has worked as a collaborative pianist with the Crane Opera Ensemble from 2006 through 2009, where he worked with Christine Brewer and Sylvia and David Aronson of the Vienna State Opera. Currently, Carmichael is employed as an accompanying assistant at the University of Maryland. He has participated in master classes with Nelti True, Ann Schein and Marc Durand.
JAELY CHAMBERLAIN (Winchester, VA), soprano, completed her undergraduate studies at Shepherd University with a double major in voice performance and music education. During this time, she had the opportunity to perform leading roles in operatic productions, her favorites being Cunégonde/Candide and Le Feu/L’enfants et les sortilèges. Chamberlain was an apprentice artist at the Ash Lawn Opera Festival in 2012, where she performed the role of First Spirit/Die Zauberflöte. The year prior, she spent two months studying and performing as a recitalist in Salzburg, Austria, under special invitation from the University of Miami. She was soprano soloist for the Capitol Hill Chorale’s recent performance of Händel’s Messiah, and has performed leading roles with the Opera Camerata of Washington, including Gretel/Hänsel und Gretel and Adéle/Die Fledermaus. She is in her first year with the Maryland Opera Studio, studying under Carmen Balthrop.

NADIA CHRISTOVA, pianist, was born and raised in Bulgaria. After graduating with a BM in piano performance from the National Academy of Music in Sofia, she came to the United States to continue her music education. Christova obtained her MM in chamber music from the University of South Florida and is currently pursuing her DMA in collaborative piano under Rita Sloan. She has performed in a variety of chamber groups, as well as accompanied numerous string and wind players, singers and choruses.

FRANK CHU (Vancouver, Canada), pianist, is sought after as both a performer and music educator who has been described as an “expressive, sensitive and individual pianist” who displays “much musicality, interpretive insights and control of touch and tone” and educator who “helps his students see beyond the simple notes on the page.” Chu has been seen on the stage in Canada, the U.S. and New Zealand. While in Canada, he was the Viola Studio Pianist at The University of Victoria and in New Zealand he was the staff accompanist for the New Zealand School of Music. Chu holds a Master of Music degree in solo piano, a BM and a performance diploma, and is currently working toward his second Master of Music degree in collaborative piano with Rita Sloan.

MILENA GUGIC (Belgrade, Serbia), pianist, is currently a DMA student of Rita Sloan in the Collaborative Piano Department at the University of Maryland. She previously studied at the University of Arts in Belgrade with Dubravka Jovicic and at Mannes College in New York City with Cristina Stanescu. She was a Collaborative Piano Fellow at Bard College (2011–2013), a Vocal Piano Fellow at Aspen Music Festival (2012) and an opera pianist at Siena Music Festival in Italy (2013). In 2012 she joined Contemporaneous — a New York City based new music ensemble — and shortly after became their official pianist. A passionate choral singer, Gugic sang with the female choir Collegium Musicum from Belgrade and participated in 400 performances all over the world both as a singer and pianist — the most recent one at Carnegie Hall in 2013. She is now a member of UMD Chamber Singers.

ETHAN LEE GREENE (Hamlet, NC), bass, is an emerging artist in the Washington DC metropolitan area. On the stage, Greene had the opportunity to perform in numerous opera roles including Don Magnifico/La Cenerentola, Pirate King/Pirates of Penzance, Jupiters/Orphée aux enfers and most recently performed scenes as Blitch/Susannah. In addition to opera, Greene has also had the opportunity to engage in concert works including Handel’s Messiah, Bach’s St. John Passion and Bach’s Magnificat. He received his bachelor’s degree in vocal performance from Wingate University. Greene is pursuing his Master of Music in Opera Performance as a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio, studying with Dominic Cossa and is the recipient of the Marriott McCoy Opera Assistance.

TERESA HITCHCOCK (Laramie, WY), soprano, made her operatic debut singing the mother in Menotti’s Amahl and the Night Visitors at Purchase College under the baton of Hugh Murphy and direction of Jacques Trusell. At Purchase College she sang the roles of the mother and the witch in Humperdinck’s Hänsel und Gretel, Dorothee in Massenet’s Cendrillon and most recently Rosalinda in Strauss’ Die Fledermaus. Hitchcock completed her bachelor’s degree at SUNY Purchase College in voice performance, studying with Bonnie Hamilton. Hitchcock is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree in opera performance as a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio, studying with Carmen Balthrop.

SAMMY HUH (Ridgefield, NJ), tenor, is a first-year student in the Maryland Opera Studio under the tutelage of Gran Wilson. He graduated from The Juilliard School with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance. At Juilliard Opera, he performed the role of Leandro/Le Donne Carine. As a recitalist, he has presented entire cycles of work such as Schumann’s Dichterliebe op. 48 and Beethoven’s An Die Ferne Geliebte op. 98 and made his Lincoln Center debut in Alice Tully Hall singing Reynaldo Hahn melodies. In 2012, he was a Young Artist with the Aspen Opera Theatre Center where he covered Tobias Ragg in Swervern Todd. He is the recipient of awards such as the Shirley Rabb Winston Scholarship, Young Singers Foundation Scholarship and the Lucretia Bori Grant. This summer, he will be a featured Young Artist at the Chautauqua Opera Company.

SUZANNE KARPOV (Oceanside, NY), soprano, is currently a first-year student in the Maryland Opera Studio, pursuing her Master of Music in opera performance. She is a graduate of Boston University, where she earned her Bachelor of Music in vocal performance, magna cum laude. Karpov began her musical studies at an early age on piano and cello at the Precollege Division of the Manhattan School of Music. In 2012, Karpov attended Oberlin in Italy as a “Concert Artist,” where she performed scenes as Norina/Don Pasquale, Musetta/Le bohème and Gilda/Rigoletto. This past summer, Karpov played the role of Susanna/Le nozze di Figaro at the Atlantic Music Festival. Most recently, she portrayed Justice Ruth Ginsburg in Derrick Wang’s Scalia/Ginsburg with the Maryland Opera Studio. Karpov was awarded second place in the Classical Singer Competition, University Division (2013). This summer, Karpov can be seen as Susanna/Le nozze di Figaro at the Atlantic Music Festival, as Nellie/Mean Creek at the Old Globe, and as Susanna/Le nozze di Figaro at the Opera Compan..
ENRICO LOPEZ-YÁNEZ (Los Angeles, CA), conductor: Don Giovanni, is currently completing his MM in orchestral conducting at the University of Maryland with Professor James Ross. Lopez-Yánez serves as the assistant conductor for the Capital City Symphony in Washington DC and the UMD Repertoire Orchestra. Lopez-Yánez has guest conducted with the Philharmonia de Zacatecas (Mexico), the Orquesta Sinfónica de Aguascalientes (Mexico) and at the 2011 Festival de Música in Londrina, Brazil. Lopez-Yánez has also assisted as rehearsal conductor on productions of L’enfant et le sorcier (Ravel), Il segreto di Susanna (Wolf-Ferrari), L’Incoronazione di Poppea (Monteverdi), Orpheus in the Underworld (Offenbach) and as assistant conductor on Albert Herring (Benjamin Britten) and the world premiere of the chamber orchestra version of Jonathan Sheffer’s Blood On the Dining Room Floor. Before studying at Maryland, Lopez-Yánez received his BA and MM from UCLA, where he studied trumpet with Jens Lindemann. He has also studied conducting with Ken Kiesler, Donald Neuen, Daisuke Soga and Dr. Thomas Lee.

TOM MALLAN, director, has directed and taught theater and opera in Latin America, Spain and his hometown of Washington DC, where he directs for In-Series Pocket Opera (Abduction from the Seraglio, Idomeneo, The Marriage of Figaro); Educational Theatre Company (ETC) (Bottoms Dream, Comedy of Error(e); and Washington Shakespeare (Henry IV, Two Gentlemen of Verona, The Winter’s Tale, Entertaining Mr. Sloane). He has taught theater to kids and their teachers across DC and the U.S. for Wolf Trap, Washington National Opera, The Kennedy Center and ETC, of which he is a founding member. He holds an M.Ed. in gifted education from the University of Virginia, and a master’s in film direction from the University of Barcelona, and currently teaches film, photography and directing at HB Woodlawn in Arlington.

BILL LARGESS, director, has been an actor and director in the Washington/Baltimore area for more than 30 years since graduating from Catholic University’s Drama Department. A founding member of The Washington Stage Guild, he has been artistic director of the company since 2008, and has appeared in many roles there and in the region, as well as at The Manhattan Theatre Club and others across the country. He has been nominated five times for Helen Hayes Awards, and received the Theatre Lobby’s Mary Goldwater Award twice, the only individual to have done so. He is on the faculty of GWU, on the board of WAPAVA and chair emeritus of the local Liaison Committee of Actors’ Equity.

ANDREA DORF MCGRAY, director, is a freelance director whose most recent work includes La bohème for Maryland Opera Studio, Amahl & the Night Visitors for Ash Lawn Opera, excerpts from The Elixir of Love for the Apollo Orchestra & Washington National Opera, American Opera Initiative: Three 20-Minute Operas for the Washington National Opera and Let Freedom Sing: the Story of Marian Anderson for the Washington National Opera & Washington Performing Arts Society. She received her BA in English, magna cum laude, from Amherst College, studied with the Shakespeare Programme in London, holds an MFA in directing from Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music and is a graduate of Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program.

NADEZDA (NADJA) MIJATOVIC-SEKICKI (Serbia), pianist, currently lives and works in the Washington metropolitan area. In 2013, she was selected to compete in the International Song Competition “Das Lied” in Berlin, Germany. While studying at Peabody Conservatory, she was music director for the Peabody Opera Outreach production of Ariel’s Te Deum and language coach for the Peabody Chamber Opera production of the Serbian opera Studba. In 2012, she was faculty/coach at Young Artists of America’s Summer Institute in Sandy Spring, Maryland. Before coming to the United States, she worked as a coach/accompanist at the voice department of the university in Serbia. She holds BM and MM degrees in piano performance from the University of Arts in Belgrade (Serbia), a Concert Diploma in piano performance from Conservatoire de Musique de Lausanne (Switzerland) and a Graduate Performance Diploma in vocal accompanying from Peabody Conservatory. She is a current doctoral candidate in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland, College Park. Mijatovic-Sekicki and her husband are proud parents of two wonderful children.

STEPHANIE POLONIO (Mirimar, FL), mezzo-soprano, is a first-year student at the University of Maryland where she is pursuing a Master of Music with the Maryland Opera Studio. She graduated from Stetson University where she received a bachelor degree in vocal performance. As a member of the Stetson University Opera Theatre she performed the roles of Bridesmaid/Le nozze di Figaro, Didol Dio and Aeneas, Tigrana/Edgar and the Third Wood Sprite/Rosalba. Polonio has also participated in several summer programs. In the summer of 2012, she sang at the Stara Zagora Opera House in Bulgaria where she covered the role of La Zia Principessa and performed the role of L’infermiera/Suor Angelica. She also performed La Zia Principessa alongside of internationally acclaimed soprano Susan Neves at the Orlando International Opera Summer Program. This summer she looks forward to participating at the Napa Valley Music Festival performing the role of Florence Pike in Albert Herring.
LOGAN WEBBER (Colorado Springs, CO), tenor, has been studying voice for more than 11 years. He has performed with the Colorado College Vocal Arts Symposium, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Opera Theater of the Rockies, A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute, Piedmont Opera in North Carolina, the American Institute of Musical Studies program in Graz, Austria and the Princeton Music Festival in New Jersey. Webber received his BM in voice at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2012 where he was awarded a William R. Kenan Jr. Excellence Award from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust where he studied under Dr. Marilyn Taylor, Chair of the Voice Department at UNCSA. Webber is currently a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio, studying with Delores Ziegler.

LUIS REYES (Asunción, Paraguay) pianist, has performed extensively both as a violist and pianist throughout South America and the U.S. As a violist, he has played and toured with numerous ensembles, including the Camerata Miranda, Orquesta de la Universidad del Norte, the Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra, the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas and the Ohio Light Opera. As a keyboard player, he has collaborated with the University of Maryland Symphony Orchestra, University of Maryland Wind Orchestra and the Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra. In the summer of 2012, Reyes attended the Aspen Music Festival and School as a recipient of the Vincent Wilkinson Scholarship. He is also a second-year winner of a scholarship awarded by the National Fund of the Arts and Culture of Paraguay. Reyes is currently pursuing a master’s degree in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland, under Professor Rita Sloan.

ALEXEI ULITIN (Kiev, Ukraine) recently worked as musical staff at the Siena Music Festival. Ulitin attended Aspen Music Festival as a collaborative artist in 2012 and 2011. In addition to performing concerts in Finland, France, Russia, Ukraine and the United States, Ulitin has won prizes in numerous international competitions, including the International Young Artist Piano Competition in Washington DC 2010 (1st prize); MTNA competition 2010 (eastern division winner); and International Piano and Piano Duets Competition in Finland, Juvaskula 2004 (1st prize). Ulitin holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Rowan University (New Jersey) where he studied with Veda Zuponcic. His master’s degree is from the National Music Academy of Ukraine. Currently, Ulitin is a DMA student in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland, where his teacher is Professor Rita Sloan.

GREGORY VOINIER (Rockaway Township, NJ), baritone, is an active artist from the New York metropolitan area, known for his full, rich sound. Most recently seen as Don Carlo in Verdi’s Ernani with Vocal Productions NYC, Voinier has also performed as Reverend Baines/Elmer Gantry, Il Collonello/Il Giovedi Grasso, Nardo/La finta giardiniera, Germano/La scala di seta and Belcore/L’elisir d’amore. Voinier also brings his artistry to the concert stage. Last season he was featured in the East Coast premiere of Samuel Barber’s The Lovers with Harmonium Choral Society. Past concert engagements include Fauré’s Requiem with the Montclair State University Chorale and Rossini’s Messa di Gloria with the County College of Morris Chamber Choir. Voinier has also performed as a National Anthem Soloist for the Philadelphia Eagles, the New Jersey Devils and the NCAA. He graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in music education from Montclair State University. He now is a first-year member of the Maryland Opera Studio at the University of Maryland, studying with Dominic Cossa.