

*University of Maryland School of Music's
Maryland Opera Studio Presents*
Opera Scene Study



May 4 & 5, 2023

GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



**SCHOOL OF
MUSIC**



MARYLAND OPERA STUDIO

Craig Kier, *Director of Maryland Opera Studio*

Corinne Hayes, *Director of Acting*

Steven Bailey, *Principal Coach* | Ashley Pollard, *Manager*

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 or Doctor of Musical Arts 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 email ensemble scenes, beginning the process of investigating scenes that include multiple characters.

The third & fourth semester focus on the preparation of complete roles. The choice of repertoire and roles is dependent on the singers' 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 chamber orchestra in the fall and fully produced operas with orchestra every spring. The seasons are presented in The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center'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.

MARYLAND OPERA STUDIO FACULTY AND STAFF

Jennifer Casey Cabot, *English Diction* ~ Corinne Hayes, *Director of Acting*

Mark Jaster, *Mime* ~ Naomi Jacobson, *Improvisation*

Craig Kier, *Director of Maryland Opera Studio, Conductor and Coach*

Steven Bailey, *Principal Coach* ~ David Lefkovich, *Mask* ~ Ashley Pollard, *Studio Manager*

Lori Sen~ *Vocal Pedagogy* ~ Mai-Linh Pham, *Italian Diction*

Rita Sloan, *Director of Collaborative Piano* ~ Gran Wilson, *French Diction*

Delores Ziegler, *German Diction*

UMD SCHOOL OF MUSIC VOICE FACULTY

Diba Alvi, *Diction* ~ Jennifer Casey Cabot, *Soprano*

Jason Max Ferdinand, *Director of Choirs* ~ Kevin Short, *Bass-Baritone*

Gran Wilson, *Tenor (Division Coordinator)* ~ Delores Ziegler, *Mezzo-Soprano*

OPERA SCENE STUDY

COSÌ FAN TUTTE

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

Ferrando Jonas Rimkunas
Guglielmo Anthony Anderson
Don Alfonso Louis Cleare

Jennifer Blades, *director*
Alexander Kostadinov, *pianist*

L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA

Music by Claudio Monteverdi

Libretto by Giovanni Francesco Busenello

Poppea Catherine Moss
Nero Valérie Filloux

Helen Aberger, *director*
Yihan Sun, *pianist*

DIALOGUES DES CARMÉLITES

Music by Francis Poulenc

Libretto by Francis Poulenc

Blanche Claire Iverson
Chevalier Jonas Rimkunas

Corinne Hayes, *director*
Eunice Kim, *pianist*

L'ELISIR D'AMORE

Music by Gaetano Donizetti

Libretto by Felice Romani

Adina Catherine Moss
Dulcamara Louis Cleare

Corinne Hayes, *director*
Yimeng Xu, *pianist*

THE LITTLE PRINCE

Music by Rachel Portman
 Libretto by Nicholas Wright

Fox..... Valérie Filloux
 Prince.....Olivia O'Brien

Helen Aberger, *director*
 Monica Tang, *pianist*

THE CRUCIBLE

Music by Robert Ward
 Libretto by Bernard Stambler

Elizabeth Proctor..... Jessica Harika
 John Proctor.....Anthony Anderson

Jennifer Blades, *director*
 Anthony Bock, *pianist*

SERSE

Music by George Frideric Handel
 Libretto adapted from Silvio Stampiglia

Romilda..... Claire Iverson
 Arsamene.....Olivia O'Brien

Helen Aberger, *director*
 Hexin Qiao, *pianist*

DIE LUSTIGEN WEIBER VON WINDSOR

Music by Otto Nicolai
 Libretto by Salomon Hermann Mosenthal

Anna..... Catherine Moss
 Frau Fluth..... Claire Iverson
 Frau Reich.....Olivia O'Brien
 Spärlich..... Valérie Filloux
 Fenton..... Jonas Rimkunas
 Herr Reich.....Anthony Anderson
 Falstaff..... Louis Cleare
 Cajus..... Craig Smith

Corinne Hayes, *director*
 Chewon Park, *pianist*

Program is approximately 1.5 hours



HELEN ABERGER, *director*, made her Maryland Opera Studio debut directing *Proving Up*. An active stage director and intimacy choreographer in the Maryland/DC area, she takes pride in building community through live performance. Helen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from University of Miami's Frost School of Music. Her humble beginnings in opera included acting, dancing and playing oboe in the pit. Post graduation and well into a career in arts administration, she became a director of opera and theatre and most recently an intimacy professional for live theatre. Select directing credits include *Princess Ida* (Victorian Lyric Opera Company), *La bohème* (Fairfax Symphony) and *Die Zauberflöte* (Bel Cantanti Opera). Select intimacy choreographer credits include *The Tempest* (Round House Theatre) *Circle Mirror Transformation* and *Back of the Throat* (Silver Spring Stage) and *Bright Star* (Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre). See her complete work at HelenAbergerDirector.com.



ANTHONY ANDERSON (Washington D.C.), *baritone*, is a first-year graduate student with the Maryland Opera Studio. Anderson joins after graduating with a B.M. in Voice Performance from the esteemed Oberlin Conservatory. At Oberlin, he performed *Starling* from Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Guglielmo from Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* and the title role in Henry Mollicone's *Emperor Norton*. Anderson made his young artist debut in recital with Cantate Chamber Singers group as its inaugurated Young Artist of Color in the Summer of 2021. Most recently, Anderson made his debut as Jim in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with the Des Moines Metro Opera at their 50th Anniversary Opera Festival. Anderson currently studies voice with bass-baritone Kevin Short.



JENNIFER BLADES, *director*, has a versatile career that includes directing, performing and teaching. Recent directing engagements include *The Fantasticks* and *The Telephone* and both staging and performing in *Side by Side by Sondheim* for Live Arts Maryland. A proponent of new works for the stage, Blades directed the premiere of Amy Scurria's *Alice, An Operatic Wonderland*, the world premiere of Frances Pollock's *Briscula the Magician* and the US premiere of Anna Sokolovic's *Svadba – Wedding*. Of *Briscula*, MDtheatreguide.com stated, "The brilliance of the stage direction becomes fully apparent as the show progresses, for the entire mood can shift from cheer to menace...with only a few subtle shifts in light and gesture." Blades taught Opera and Musical Theatre Workshop for Goucher College from 2015-2022 and directed several musicals including *Cabaret*, *Heathers the Musical* and *25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee*. For Peabody Conservatory's Opera Department, she directed more than 25 productions from 1998-2016.



ANTHONY BOCK (Medford, OR) *pianist*, is a chamber musician, vocal coach and collaborative pianist. Bock has competed and performed throughout the United States. He has won awards in numerous competitions including 1st prize in the Oregon Music Teachers Association (OMTA) Sonata Competition, OMTA Bach Competition, OMTA Classical and Baroque festival, the 2016-2020 Evans Family Scholarship at Southern Oregon University (SOU), the Brookings Friends of Music Scholarship competition and placed 3rd at Washington International Piano Competition at the Kennedy Center. Outside of music, Bock has a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and enjoys hiking, camping and sports. Bock is an avid performer throughout the Pacific Northwest and the Northeast, and at SOU, and has played with numerous jazz ensembles, chamber groups, choirs, opera companies and orchestras. Bock earned his Bachelor of Music from SOU. During his time at SOU, he studied under the instruction of Dr. Alexander Tutunov and Dr. Matt Goodrich. Bock is now studying for a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano under the instruction of Rita Sloan at the University of Maryland.



LOUIS CLEARE (Nassau, The Bahamas), *bass-baritone*, is a first year student in the Maryland Opera Studio. He is a graduate of Oakwood University where he received a B.A. in Music and also a graduate of the University of the Bahamas where he received his B.S. in Small Island Sustainability. In addition to his undergraduate studies, he has performed as a bass soloist with several choirs in Nassau featuring works such as Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Magnificat*. He also spends his free time involved in community health programs. Cleare is a student of Kevin Short.



VALÉRIE FILLOUX (Redwood City, CA), *mezzo-soprano*, is a first-year student in the Maryland Opera Studio, studying with Delores Ziegler. She recently finished her undergraduate studies with professor Theresa Brancaccio at Northwestern University, earning a Bachelor of Music in Voice & Opera with program honors and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. She spent her summer at Aspen Music Festival, performing scenes from *Little Women* and *L'italiana in Algeri*, singing on several recitals and concerts, and devising and premiering a new work in collaboration with composer Gala Flagello as part of the Aspen Composition Project. Other recent performances include Zita in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* (Janiec Opera Company, Brevard Music Center), Hansel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* (OPUS, Bienen School of Music), Mezzo-Soprano soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* (Trinity United Methodist Church) and Olga in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* (Russian Opera Workshop).



JESSICA HARIKA (Richmond, VA) *mezzo-soprano*, is a second-year D.M.A. student and graduate assistant, and recently Assistant Directed *TWA* with the Maryland Opera Studio. She currently serves as Artistic & Co-Executive Director of River City Opera, a company she co-founded in 2019 in her hometown. Apart from directing opera and theater ranging from the traditional to the experimental, Harika has also produced comedy and cabaret shows at The Pit NYC and The Duplex Cabaret Theater. These include *The Wagner Project*, a genre crossing re-imagination of Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* with soprano/guitarist Lacey Jo Benter and pianist Brent Funderburk, and *Rita Libretto is: The Ring Cycle*, a one-woman sock puppet musical comedy show with soprano/comedienne Rebecca Kidnie. Recent operas directed include: *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* with dell'Arte Opera Ensemble, *La bohème* with Capitol Opera Richmond and with City Lyric Opera: *L'elisir d'amore*, *Roméo et Juliette: an Opera[ish]*, and *Gianni Schicchi*.



CORINNE HAYES, *stage director*, is a stage director and educator, and has recently been named Director of Acting for the Maryland Opera Studio at the University of Maryland; this spring, she led a staged reading of *TWA*, a new work by Justine F. Chen and Jacqueline Goldfinger and a new production of *Don Giovanni* in collaboration with the UMD School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies. The 22-23 season continues with a company debut at Annapolis Opera (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and a return to Miami Music Festival (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*). In recent seasons, Hayes has created new productions for Miami Music Festival (*Le nozze di Figaro*, *La rondine*, *L'Orfeo*), Opera Mississippi (*Rigoletto*) and Winter Opera St. Louis (*Così fan tutte*). As an assistant and associate director, Hayes is honored to have worked with such notable artists as Francesca Zambello, Ken Cazan, James Darrah and the late Tito Capobianco; beyond the rehearsal hall, Hayes has presented courses and lectures at the University of Maryland, Temple University, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Webster University. Hayes serves as Artistic Advisor for DC-based opera theater company IN Series, where she works closely with Artistic Director Timothy Nelson; with IN Series, Hayes conceived and directed a virtual production of Melissa Dunphy's *The Gonzales Cantata*, directed the world premiere of ZAVALA-ZAVALA and served as Creative Producer on *Black Flute*, *BOHEME in the Heights* and *OTHELLO/DESDEMONA*.



CLAIRE IVERSON (Baltimore, MD), *soprano*, is a first-year student in the Maryland Opera Studio. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Peabody Conservatory, where she received a B.A. in International Studies and French Languages and Literature and a B.M. in Voice Performance. During her time at Peabody, Iverson sang the roles of The Governess in *The Turn of the Screw*, Jane Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (staged world premiere) and collaborated with the Peabody Voice Department and Now Hear This! to present Kaija Saariaho's opera *Émilie*. Other recent operatic credits include Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with the Prague Summer Nights Festival in July 2022, and Suor Genovieffa in Music On Site's *Suor Angelica* (December 2019). She studies with Jennifer Casey Cabot.



YOONHEE EUNICE KIM (South Korea), *pianist*, is a sought after collaborative artist who is passionate about chamber music. She has collaborated with renowned artists such as Robert McDuffie, former New York Philharmonic concertmaster Glenn Dicterow, Montreal Symphony concertmaster Andrew Wan, Grammy-Winning violinist Mark O'Connor and Düsseldorf Symphoniker concertmaster Dragos Manza. She performs regularly with an award winning violinist, Jin Woo Lee in a violin and piano duo, which received the best duo prize in Lausanne, Switzerland. She has been featured in WQXR, Aspen Public Radio and Swiss National Radio, and has performed in major concert venues such as Alice Tully Hall, David Geffen Hall, Carnegie Hall, Frankfurt Alte Oper, Kölner Philharmonie, Essener Philharmonie and Dortmund Konzerthaus. Her summer activities include collaborative work for the Aspen Music Festival, Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Great Mountain International Music Festival in Korea and international competitions and International Summer Academy in Mozarteum. And she has appeared in numerous masterclasses by renowned artists such as Gil Shaham, Cho-Liang Lin, Leonidas Kavakos, Donald Weilerstein, Miriam Fried, Svetlin Roussev, Koichiro Harada, Aldo Parisot and Mihaela Martin. She was on staff pianist at The Juilliard School and Mannes College of Music. She was also on staff at Robert Schumann Musikhochschule for many years while living in Germany and she currently resides in Bethesda, Maryland, pursuing her doctoral studies at the University of Maryland.



ALEXANDER KOSTADINOV (Varna, Bulgaria), *pianist*, is a Doctoral Candidate in Collaborative Piano at the University of Maryland under the tutelage of Professor Rita Sloan. He has won several prestigious international competitions including first prize at the Joseph Dichler Piano Competition in Vienna, grand prix at the Amici del Pianoforte Competition in Venice and grand prix at the Competition for Slavic Music in Moscow. He has participated in the Aspen Music festival and the Collaborative Piano Institute where he worked with renowned artists such as Renée Fleming, Carole Vaness, Martin Katz, Jean Barr, amongst others. He is currently a piano teacher at the Capital Piano Conservatory and is on the faculty at the Peabody Preparatory.



CATHERINE MOSS (Ann Arbor, MI), *soprano*, is a first-year student in the Maryland Opera Studio. She has appeared on the operatic stage most recently as Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Josephine (*The H.M.S. Pinafore*) and die Königin der Nacht (*Die Zauberflöte*). Moss has appeared as a young artist for the Taos Opera Institute and an apprentice artist with Opera NEO. In conjunction with her operatic performances, she has appeared as the soprano soloist for works such as Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Faure's *Requiem*. Moss appeared internationally in concert in The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's concert series The American Dream performing "Glitter and be Gay" (*Candide*). She is the winner of the University of Michigan Friends of Opera Competition, performed as a finalist in the University of Michigan Concerto Competition (Knoxville: Summer of 1915), and a semi-finalist for the Camille Coloratura Awards. Moss is currently studying with Gran Wilson.



OLIVIA O'BRIEN (Chapel Hill, NC), *mezzo-soprano*, is currently a first-year student in the Maryland Opera Studio where she studies with Delores Ziegler. She graduated from Northwestern University, earning a B.M. in Voice & Opera with a minor in Music Criticism, and a B.A. in Communication Studies. During her time at Northwestern, O'Brien was the continual recipient of the Dorothy Vetter Music Scholarship. O'Brien's recent roles include Arsamene in Handel's *Serse* with Chicago Summer Opera, Rachel in

Jake Heggie's *If I Were You* with the Northwestern Opera Theater, and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* with Atlantic Music Festival. O'Brien also appeared in a number of productions with Northwestern's Opera Projects for University Singers, such as *Hänsel und Gretel* (Getrud) and *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Cupid).



CHEWON PARK (Seoul, Korea), *pianist*, has performed in Korea and the United States as a solo pianist and as a chamber musician. She received her Master of Music and Graduate Diploma in Collaborative piano from New England Conservatory. Park also served as a collaborative pianist at the New England Conservatory of Music Preparatory School, and Boston Conservatory at Berklee. She is currently pursuing her D.M.A. in Collaborative Piano at the University of Maryland.



HEXIN QIAO (Beijing, China), *pianist*, prior to moving to the DMV area, was an active performer and teaching-artist in the Greater Seattle Area. Qiao made her debut performance with the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra at Benaroya Hall in 2019 and gave solo and chamber music performances regularly at Meany Hall and Seattle Art Museum in Seattle. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Qiao has worked closely with contemporary music experts such as John Heiss, Stephen Drury, and Cristina Valdes. Along with

her ensemble, Qiao gave the west coast premiere of Steven Reich's "Radio Rewrite" and the US premiere of Betsy Jolas' "Wanderlied."



JONAS RIMKUNAS (Gorham, ME), *tenor*, is a first year student in the Maryland Opera Studio, and a recent graduate from The University of Southern Maine's Osher School of Music. In his early 20s, Rimkunas was set to pursue a career in wooden boat building, but shifted course when singing with a barbershop quartet inspired him to seek a degree in music performance. Rimkunas's love of opera was solidified when he performed the role of Tamino in USM's production of *The Magic Flute*. Rimkunas also

performed in Opera Maine's *L'elisir d'amore* in 2021, and *The Flying Dutchman* in 2022 and has been named the 2022 Ellen Chickering Young Artist. In June 2022 under the direction of Nicolas Dosman, Rimkunas shared the stage at Carnegie Hall with Met singers David Margulis, Allison Charberlan and Sidney Outlaw in an Opera Chorus concert presented by National Concerts. Rimkunas is a student of Gran Wilson.



CRAIG FRANCIS SMITH (Rochester, NY), *baritone*, is a second-year student in the Maryland Opera Studio. Smith has performed with the Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Center and the award-winning Crane Opera Ensemble. Recent credits include Ronaldo Cabral in *Later the Same Evening*, Armored Man/First Priest in *Die Zauberflöte*, the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*, the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro*, the Duke of Verona in *Roméo et Juliette*, Ivan in *Die Fledermaus* and The Superintendent in Tom Cipullo's world premiere of *Mayo*. In the 2022-2023 season, Smith will be singing the roles of Schaunard in Puccini's *La bohème* and Leporello in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Smith has received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, where he studied with Dr. Colleen Skull. He is a student of Kevin Short.



YIHAN SUN (Qingdao, China), *pianist*, is a doctoral candidate in Collaborative Piano, studying with Rita Sloan at University of Maryland. Prior to joining UMD, Sun studied under Alexander Shtarkman and obtained her master's degree in piano performance from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Throughout the years, Sun won several piano competitions, including the 4th Kawai Asia Piano Competition, the 4th Shenzhen Piano Open Competition and TMTA Piano Competition. She has appeared as festival fellow at the Colorado College Summer Music Festival and Eastern Music Festival where she won the concerto competition and performed under the baton of Grant Cooper with EMF Young Artists Orchestra. She also has solo/chamber masterclasses with many distinguished musicians, including Leon Fleisher, Kim-Woo Paik and Seymour Bernstein. Sun was chosen to perform alongside Yi-Yang Chen for the Embassy Series in November 2018 in Washington, DC.



MONICA TANG (Hong Kong), *pianist*, is currently pursuing a Master degree in Collaborative Piano at the University of Maryland under the tutelage of Prof. Rita Sloan. Her professional engagements include working as a pianist and organist with the Thomas Circle Singers in Washington D.C., and in multiple churches. In the past summer, she was an apprentice répétiteur for the production *Die Fledermaus* at the Berlin Opera Academy in Germany. This summer, she will be joining the Musiktheater Bavaria in Germany as a Collaborative Piano and Vocal Coaching Fellow. With much honor, she received a full scholarship from the government under the Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme to support her study abroad. Tang graduated with honors from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 2020, she studied the chamber music program at the Musikhöskolan at Örebro University, Sweden.



YIMENG XU (Shenyang, China), *pianist*, is currently studying under the instruction of Rita Sloan as a first-year graduate student majoring in collaborative piano at the University of Maryland. She graduated from the Affiliated High School of Shenyang Conservatory of Music in 2018 and holds a bachelor of music from the University of Nebraska Omaha School of Music. Among her teachers have been Zhang Hong, Volodymyr Petrov, Drozodov Yury Anatolievich, Dr. Washington Garcia, Dr. Kristin Taylor and Stacie Haneline.

Xu was a multiple award winner in college. She was runner-up in the UNO Concerto Competition in both 2018 and 2022, was selected the Outstanding Student in Piano by the School of Music Faculty Tutti 2019, was one of the winners of Michael J.Ruetz scholarship for Music Excellence and won first prize at the 2020 UNO Piano day-College Division as well as the first place of Charleston international 2021 Classical Music Competition.

22-23

SEASON >

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