

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS

# Boyer College of Music and Dance

Opera Workshop 8220  
Graduate Opera Scenes Presentation

Christopher Turbessi, music director/conductor  
Rose Freeman, stage director  
Abigail LaVecchia, coach  
Sirapat Jittapirom, piano  
Leigh Brown, cello

April 29, 2024  
Mitten Hall, Room 300

Monday  
6:00 PM

## Program

“Scene 1b, Park in Dupont Circle” from *Fellow Travelers*

Gregory Spears (b. 1977)

Hawkins Fuller: John Drake  
Timothy Laughlin: Connor Husa

At the opening of the opera, Tim is sitting on a park bench writing in a notepad. A stranger, Hawk, starts a conversation with him; learning that Tim is an intern reporter, Hawk impresses him with insider's knowledge of D.C. politics. Both men feel a strong connection, but neither comments directly on it. Hawk makes gentle fun of Tim's drinking milk but gives his shoulder an affectionate squeeze when he leaves.

“C’mon... they’re only fireworks” from *Taking Up Serpents*

Kamala Sankaram (b. 1978)

Daddy: Timothy Hurtt  
Kayla: Felicity Davis  
Nelda: Andreia Lucaciu

When 25-year-old Kayla hears that her father, a snake handler, is on his deathbed, it triggers memories of her troubled upbringing. Kayla remembers a time when her drunken father encouraged her to play with explosive, violent fireworks. Daddy is a desperate man in despair, recklessly lighting and throwing firecrackers into the night sky while daring God to show himself. Nelda, his wife, and Kayla witness Daddy’s religious conversion, and Kayla is left outside alone.

“Now/Later/Soon” from *A Little Night Music*

Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

Anne: Sarah Petko  
Henrik: Nick James  
Fredrik: Daniel Laverriere  
Petra: Lucianna Astorga

Middle-aged, successful lawyer Fredrik Egerman has recently married an 18-year-old trophy wife, Anne, a naive girl who loves Fredrik but isn't attracted to him. The two have been married for eleven months, and Anne still protects her virginity. Upon coming home from work, Fredrik surprises Anne with tickets to a play starring Desiree Armfeldt, a glamorous actress whom Anne greatly admires. Anne giddily fantasizes about what it would be like to be as beautiful and beloved as Desiree, and starts talking at Fredrik about her day. Fredrik, distracted by his lust, considers various ways he might seduce his wife but ultimately rules each one out and elects to take a nap instead ("Now"). Meanwhile, his moody son Henrik, a seminary student a year older than his stepmother, practices the cello to express his own feelings of frustration ("Later"). Anne promises her husband that shortly she will consent to consummate their marriage even though she can't help recoiling at his touch ("Soon") and all three of them lament at once. The number concludes with Fredrik sighing Desiree's name in his sleep, which Anne overhears.

"Mimi!...Speravo di trovarvi qui" from *La bohème*

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

**Marcello: John Drake**  
**Mimi: Kaitlyn O'Gaibtheachain**

Mimi, having found Marcello at the tavern where he lives, tells him of her difficulties with Rodolfo, who abandoned her the night before, and of Rodolfo's terrible jealousy. Marcello expresses concern about their relationship and Mimi's cough, then reveals that Rodolfo is asleep inside.

"Ach Belmonte, ach mein Leben!" from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*    Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

**Konstanze: Wonyoung Seo**  
**Belmonte: Connor Husa**  
**Pedrillo: Joshua Myers**  
**Blonde: Lucianna Astorga**

Two couples reunite after Belmonte and Pedrillo plan to rescue their respective spouses, Konstanze and Blonde, from a kidnapping. After their initial expressions of love and joy, Belmonte and Pedrillo both question anxiously whether their respective fiancées have remained faithful during their forced separation; to their delight, the women respond with indignation and dismay, and Blonde slaps Pedrillo. The two men apologize for their lack of confidence, the women forgive them for their offensive questions, and all celebrate the power of love.

"Pourquoi vous tenez vous ainsi" from *Dialogues des Carmélites*

Francis Poulenc (1782-1868)

**Chevalier de la Force: Weizhong Ding**  
**Blanche de la Force: Katrina Dignum**  
**Mother Marie: Felicity Davis**

Blanche's brother, the Chevalier de la Force, arrives to announce that their father thinks Blanche should withdraw from the convent, since she is not safe there (being both an aristocrat and the member of a religious community, at a time of anti-aristocracy and anti-clericalism in the rising revolutionary tides). Blanche refuses,

saying that she has found happiness in the Carmelite Order. Later she admits to Mother Marie that it is fear (or the fear of fear itself, as the Chevalier expresses it) that keeps her from leaving.

*"Bella Italia, alfin ti miro"* from *Il Turco in Italia*

Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

**Selim: Sihan Jin**  
**Fiorilla: Wonyoung Seo**

When Selim, a Turkish prince, arrives in Italy, Fiorilla is immediately attracted to the handsome Turk, and a romance rapidly develops.

*"Andrò ramingo e solo"* from *Idomeneo*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**Idamante: Andrea Lucaciu**  
**Ilia: Sarah Petko**  
**Idomeneo: Weizhong Ding**  
**Elettra: Kaitlyn O'Gaibtheachain**

In exchange for being saved by Neptune, Idomeneo vowed to sacrifice the first living creature he should meet; unfortunately for him, this turns out to be his own son, Idamante. When Idomeneo realizes the youth that he must sacrifice for the sake of his vow is his own child, he orders Idamante never to seek him out again. Meanwhile, Elettra is consumed with jealousy because of her unrequited love for Idamante. In this quartet, Idamante explains to his beloved, Ilia, that he must leave. While Idamante and Ilia bid a sorrowful farewell to each other, Idomeneo is overcome with grief, while Elettra fumes, craving revenge.

*"Che imbarazzo è mai questo!... Crudel! Perché finora"* from *Le nozze di Figaro*  
Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus

**Il Conte: Daniel Laverriere**  
**La Contessa: Katrina Dignum**  
**Susanna: Lucianna Astorga**

While the Count processes the chaos of the Act II finale, the Countess urges Susanna to give a false promise to meet the Count later that night in the garden. Susanna obliges and reluctantly approaches Count Almaviva.

*"Un financier... Et un poète"* from *L'heure espagnole*  
1937)

Maurice Ravel (1875-

**Gonzalve: Nick James**  
**Don Iñigo Gomez: Timothy Hurtt**  
**Concepción: Andrea Lucaciu**  
**Torquemada: Joshua Myers**  
**Ramiro: John Drake**

Concepción is a vivacious Spanish woman who juggles multiple lovers while her husband Torquemada, a clock maker, is away for the hour. This is the final scene of the opera, in which the singers step out of character to

intone the moral of the tale, paraphrasing Boccaccio: "Among all lovers, only the efficient succeed. The moment arrives, in the pursuit of love, when the muleteer has his turn!"

Opera Workshop 8220  
Undergraduate Opera Scenes Presentation

Sirapat Jittapirom, music director/piano  
Rose Freeman, stage director

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Program

“Nous sommes assaillis...” from *Cendrillon*

Pauline Viardot (1821-1910)

**Cendrillon {Marie}: Morgan Lucero**  
**Maguelonne: Jess Corrigan**  
**Armeline: Ali Crosley**

A beggar (who is actually the Prince) calls at the house asking for food and money, but he is looking for a wife among common folk. Marie returns from asking her sisters for money to no avail, but offers the beggar the few coins she has before her sisters enter the living room to shoo away the beggar.

“God, it’s windy!” from *Three Decembers*

Jake Heggie (b. 1961)

**Bea: Marlina St. Jean**  
**Charlie: Chase Côté**

Siblings Bea and Charlie reminisce on their upbringing. Charlie is in San Francisco and Bea is in Hartford, while their famous mother, Madeline (Maddy) Mitchell, is working in the Caribbean for the holiday. Charlie resents his mother for her homophobia. Bea admits that she hardly remembers their dad, since they were both very young when he died, but they miss him, nonetheless.

“Cosa mi narri?...sull'aria” from *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**La Contessa: Jess Corrigan**  
**Susanna: Faith Crossan**

Susanna enters and updates her mistress regarding the plan to distract the Count from the wedding. The Countess dictates a love letter for Susanna to send to the Count, which suggests that he meet her (Susanna) that night, "under the pines". The letter instructs the Count to return the pin that fastens the letter.

"Alfin siam liberati... Là ci darem la mano" from *Don Giovanni*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**Zerlina: Morgan Lucero**  
**Don Giovanni: Benjamin Chen**

Don Giovanni is attracted to Zerlina, the wife of Masetto. Don Giovanni tries to remove the jealous Masetto by offering a wedding celebration at his castle. On realizing that Don Giovanni wants to remain behind with Zerlina, Masetto becomes angry but is forced to leave. Don Giovanni and Zerlina are soon alone and he immediately begins his seductive arts.

**"The Kiss!"** from *Patience and Sarah*

**Paula Kimper (b. 1956)**

**Patience and Sarah share their love with each other in their first kiss.**

**Patience: Faith Crossan**

**Sarah: Ali Crosley**

**"A Weekend in the Country"** from *A Little Night Music*

**Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)**

**Directed by Sarah Petko**

**Anne: Marlena St. Jean**

**Petra: Jess Corrigan**

**Charlotte: Ali Crosley**

**Henrik: Roberto Guevara**

**Carl Magnus: Benjamin Chen**

**Fredrik: Chase Côté**

**"Quintet": Morgan Lucero & Faith Crossan**

Madam Armfeldt is asked to host a party for Fredrik, Anne, and Henrik. Madam Armfeldt reluctantly agrees and sends out a personal invitation, which sends Anne into a jealous frenzy over Fredrik. Anne does not want to accept the invitation, but is convinced to do so. Carl-Magnus plans to challenge Fredrik to a duel. All characters head to Madam Armfeldt's estate.