



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season
MSU OPERA THEATRE

A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice

Vocal Arts Area Graduate Students
Elden Little, piano

*Generously sponsored by
Richard Witter
and
Michael and Elaine Serling*

Saturday, January 25, 2025
Fairchild Theatre, 3:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

- from *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Op. 60
Sein wir wieder gut
Meagan Wozny, mezzo-soprano
Richard Strauss
(1864–1949)
- from *Susannah*
Ain't it a Pretty Night
Amira Coleman, soprano
Carlisle Floyd
(1926–2021)
- from *Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492
Se vuol ballare
Gabriel Lockheimer Toso, bass-baritone
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756–1791)
- from *Carmen*
Seguidilla
Wanyi Cui, mezzo-soprano
Yifeng Li, tenor
Georges Bizet
(1838–1875)
- from *Simon Boccanegra*
Il lacerato spirito
Jamie Eagle, bass-baritone
Giuseppe Verdi
(1813–1901)
- from *Les pêcheurs de perles*
Au fond du temple saint
Michael Seare, tenor
José Luis Maldonado, baritone
Georges Bizet
- from *Werther*
Letter Scene
Xiao Xiao, mezzo-soprano
Jules Massenet
(1842–1912)
- from *La Traviata*
De' miei bollenti spiriti
Yifeng Li, tenor
Giuseppe Verdi
- from *Château Margaux*
No sé qué siento
Elia Meekhoff, soprano
Manuel Fernández Caballero
(1835–1906)
- from *La fille du régiment*
Ah, mes amis!
Xiaoji Jie, tenor
Gaetano Donizetti
(1797–1848)

PROGRAM (cont.)

Intermission

- from *La Cenerentola* Gioachino Rossini
Come un'ape ne'giorni d'Aprile (1792-1868)
Pengyu Yang, baritone
- from *La bohème*, SC 67 Giacomo Puccini
Sì, mi chiamano Mimi (1858-1924)
Paige Heidrich, soprano
- from *Der Zarewitsch* Franz Lehár
Einer wird kommen (1870-1948)
Hannah Tatay, soprano
- from *Les Pêcheurs de perles* Georges Bizet
Nadir's Aria
Cole Harvey, tenor
- from *La Cenerentola* Gioachino Rossini
Miei rampolli femminini
Jiahao Fu, baritone
- Sventurata!
Yingxi Lei, soprano
- from *Orfeo ed Euridice* Christophe Willibald Gluck
Che farò senza Euridice? (1714-1787)
Fengzhzen Liu, mezzo-soprano
- from *Hamlet* Ambroise Thomas
Ò vin, dissipe la tristesse (1811-1896)
Yilin Chen, baritone
- from *Vanessa*, Op. 32 Samuel Barber
Must the Winter Come So Soon? (1910-1981)
Huizhong Zhang, mezzo-soprano
- from *Die Fledermaus* Johann Strauss II
Mein Herr Marquis (1825-1899)
Anna Hallwood, soprano

PROGRAM (cont.)

from *Glory Denied*
My Darling Jim

Tom Cipullo
(b. 1956)

Phoenix Miranda, soprano

from *La Cenerentola*
Non più mesta

Gioachino Rossini

Paula Duva-Rodriguez, mezzo-soprano
Ensemble

Gentlemen of the Chorus

Welcome! The Vocal Arts Area of the MSU College of Music is very pleased to welcome you to our fourth annual gala concert presented here in our magnificent Fairchild Theatre.

This afternoon, you will hear a wide variety of operatic masterpieces from three centuries in a variety of languages. We are featuring our graduate students, some working on Master and some on Doctorate degrees. Our students hail from all over the United States and this year from China as well. Some of them have already had national and international success in such programs as the Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Merola Program, Wolf Trap Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Des Moines Metro Opera, and the MET Laffont Competition. Our alumni are achieving national and international success in both competitions and professional engagements. Among today's singers, Xiaoji Jie recently advanced to the Regional Round of the MET Laffont Competition. Yilin Chen and Pengyu Zhang won Encouragement Awards, and Anna Hallwood, Cole Harvey, Phoenix Miranda, Xiao Xiao, and Gabriel Lockheimer Toso were district finalists. They have all represented MSU extremely well.

Our 2023 production of *Falstaff* was awarded 1st prize in the prestigious American Prize for larger university programs. Professor Helton was given the 2nd Prize in Directing for *Falstaff*. In addition, *A Little Night Music* was awarded 2nd prize in Division IV (undergraduate) of the National Opera Association Opera Production and *Don Giovanni* was awarded 3rd prize in Division VII (graduate). We are also proud of our many alums who are teaching music across the state and the nation. Many of them had major roles with MSU Opera while they were here.

Many thanks to our Vocal Arts area faculty: Richard Fracker (chair); Jane Bunnell, Marc Embree, Dr. Derrick Fox, Melanie Helton, Dr. Harlan Jennings, Dr. Anne Nispel, Dr. Jon Reed, Mark Rucker, Sadie Rucker, and Dr. Sandra Snow. A special thanks to our collaborative artist Dr. Elden Little, who is our orchestra for this afternoon.

In March, we are presenting Rossini's rollicking *La Cenerentola*, featuring our graduate students. Tickets are available at music.msu.edu for performances on March 25, 27-29. We welcome back Dr. Katherine Kilburn as conductor.

The Worthington Family Foundation is a proud sponsor of the 2024-2025 MSU Opera Season. We thank all our donors for without you, there is no opera!

ARTIST-FACULTY BIO

Elden Little joined the faculty of Michigan State University College of Music in the fall of 2014 as a vocal coach. Previously, he worked as a pianist/coach in more than 70 operatic productions that range from baroque operas to contemporary works by composers such as Jonathan Dove, Carlise Floyd, Philip Glass, Jake Heggie, and Andre Previn. While working at Austin Opera, he worked as a pianist/coach, music administrator, orchestra manager and orchestra librarian. Additional collaborations include Des Moines Metro Opera, where he has been a member of the music staff since 2006, Opera Birmingham, Kentucky Opera, and San Antonio Opera. Since 2012, he has been a faculty member of Opera NEO, a San Diego-based summer festival/training program. In addition to his work as a vocal coach, he also was a member of the faculty of the Austin Chamber Music Summer Festival and Workshop.

He has accompanied numerous singers, most notably internationally acclaimed soprano Gilda Cruz-Romo, in recitals in Texas and Mexico. He has toured with Austin-based choral ensemble Conspirare and can be heard as a featured soloist on their recording "Through the Green Fuse", available on the Clarion label. He has accompanied the master classes of Jane Bunnell, Denyce Graves, Brenda Harris, Marilyn Horne, Martin Katz, Catherine Malfitano, Elizabeth Mannion, Suzanne Mentzer, Samuel Ramey, Martial Singher, and Gerard Souzay. He has a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara in piano performance, and Master and Doctorate degrees in applied piano from the University of Texas at Austin. His collaborative piano studies were with noted collaborative pianists Eugene Bossart, David Garvey, and Gwendolyn Koldofsky.

MSU College of Music Vocal Arts Faculty

Jane Bunnell, Professor of Voice, mezzo-soprano

Marc Embree, Associate Professor of Voice, bass-baritone

Richard Fracker, Professor of Voice, tenor, Chair of the
Vocal Arts Area

Melanie Helton, Professor of Voice, soprano, and
Director of Opera Theatre

Harlan Jennings, Associate Professor of Voice, baritone

Elden Little, Instructor, Vocal Coach

Anne Nispel, Instructor of Voice, soprano

Mark Rucker, Professor of Voice, baritone

Sadie Rucker, Voice Accompanist, Lesson Pianist, and Vocal Arts
Outreach Program Coordinator

MSU Opera Society Donors

2024–2025 Season

MSU Opera Society is the community support organization of the MSU Opera Theatre. With grateful appreciation, we acknowledge the following members of the MSU Opera Society at Michigan State University beginning July 1, 2024. We are grateful to our members for their generous contributions.

The 2024-25 MSU Opera Theatre season is generously funded by the Worthington Family Foundation.

Presenter (\$5,000+)

James and Susan Bonfiglio

Susan Davis

Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by

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Timothy Morris

Richard Witter

Underwriters (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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Marc Embree and Jane Bunnell

Richard and Lynne Fracker

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Ralph and Marion Gorton

Virginia and Earle Helton

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Diane Levy
Janice Levy
Elden Little
Joseph Matrella
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Walter and Elsa Verdehr
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James and Monica Haluska
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Jane Wilensky

MSU Opera Society Donors

Become a member of the MSU Opera Society! Your contribution is tax deductible and will be used to assist with high production costs involving set design and construction, costumes and operations.

Please consider how much you enjoy the Opera Theatre productions and send your check or money order made payable to Michigan State University with "MSU Opera Society - AE0605" written on the memo line. Mail your contributions to:

Opera Theatre

College of Music Advancement Office
333 W Circle Drive, Room 105
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

For information about the MSU Opera Society, please contact the College of Music Advancement Office at (517) 353-9872 or e-mail Ann-Marie Lindley at alindley@msu.edu.

Make a Gift



UPCOMING EVENTS

1/27 Monday

Joanne and Bill Church West Circle Series

Happy Birthday, Mozart!

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$\$

1/28 Tuesday

Trombone Choir

Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$

2/2 Sunday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Lunar New Year

Cook Recital Hall, 3:00 p.m. \$

Reserved Seating Available for this event.

2/3 Monday

Musique 21

Murray Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

2/4 Tuesday

Wind Symphony

Cobb Great Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

2/5 Wednesday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Antonio Di Cristofano, piano

Cook Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

2/6 Thursday

Symphony Band

Cobb Great Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$

2/7 Friday

Symphony Orchestra

Cobb Great Hall, 8:00 p.m. \$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18.

Please note: All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.