



HAWAII  
PERFORMING  
ARTS *Festival*



**2022 SUMMER FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 26–JULY 24**

*A Season  
of Self-Discovery*


**Val Underwood**  
Artistic Director



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Viewing appointments will be available throughout the Festival. For more information, please contact Rachel Copeland, HPAF General Manager, at [rcopeland@hawaiiipaf.org](mailto:rcopeland@hawaiiipaf.org) / (812) 345-3949 or George Nellas, Piano Planet President, at [george@pianoplanethawaii.com](mailto:george@pianoplanethawaii.com) / (808) 216-8836

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# From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

It is rather difficult to believe this summer marks my fifth season as Executive Director (and my seventh in an administrative capacity with the Festival).

When Genette Freeman gave me the “keys” back in August 2017, she jokingly mentioned that she’d done it all—everything from accepting the largest of donations to cleaning the filthiest of bathrooms. Well, I can’t say she was wrong! But, all jokes aside, no one of us could have anticipated the unique challenges brought on by the past 2.5 years, in particular. This chapter has challenged our organization (and me) in ways unimaginable.

In my 2020 “From the Executive Director” letter, I wrote:

“The hills of Waimea will sadly be a bit quieter this season. However, we must remind ourselves that the beauty of our song is more thoughtfully defined by the space between the notes themselves. Embracing that silence can offer the most satisfying moment of reflection—an ounce of clarity for a world in dire need of a brief intermission.”

And with that, our brief intermezzo has concluded. We have paused. We have reflected. We have reconsidered the ways in which we do what we do. And thus begins the next chapter for HPAF— a chapter full of new initiatives, exciting projects, and limitless artistic discoveries.

Our biggest undertaking this season is generously underwritten by the State of Hawai‘i and Hawaii Tourism Authority. Thanks to the support of a \$50,000 grant, we are proud to launch our new Hawaiian Cultural Initiative. As per the work associated with this project, we have rewritten our curriculum to support educational enrichment activities which honor various elements of Hawaiian music, history, language, and culture. Furthermore, we will come together to celebrate *The Spirit of Hawai‘i* at the Fairmont Orchid on Thursday, June 30 at 7pm. I hope you will join us as we honor the rich culture of Hawai‘i in this

transcendent season opener with performances by Hawane Rios (HPAF Alumna), Blayne Asing, Kaulu Amaral with Pomai Brown and Friends, and Hālau Ka‘eikahelani. All proceeds raised from this concert will support HPAF scholarships for local underserved students.

For the first time since 2019, we are overjoyed to present a full slate of 20 concerts, fully-staged productions, and educational programs. This season also begins a new partnership with our friends at Kahilu Theatre. We will spend a significant portion of the summer “in residence” for our productions of *As One*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and *Hair*. This residency allows us to further expand the quality of our offerings and work more carefully to bring high quality music education and cultural experiences to the local community in one of our most cherished Island venues.

Since last July, my team and I have worked tirelessly to engage the most diverse faculty and participant roster in the history of the Festival. In addition, we awarded nearly \$110,000 in scholarships and financial aid to 85% of our participants (shattering all previous records). Finally, we have programmed groundbreaking repertoire that will challenge societal norms and afford us the opportunity to use our art form as a vehicle for discussion and social impact.

Whether you see me collecting a donation, scrubbing a toilet, or conducting our upcoming production of *Hair*, please feel free to stop by and say hello. Since I first joined the HPAF Ohana as a participant in 2009, I have seen this organization continue to reach new heights. And this season will be no exception, my friends. We are bigger, better, and braver because of each of you. Mahalo for your unwavering trust and support.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin John Moniz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Justin John Moniz, Executive Director

# ABOUT HAWAII PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL



Now in its 18th season, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival brings some of the most talented young musicians from Hawaii, the U.S., Canada, Australia, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, South America, and Europe to Hawaii Island each summer for intensive study and performance training, affording young artists the opportunity perform with professional musicians under the guidance of some of the world's most established teachers and mentors. The results are astonishing.

During the 2019 Summer Festival, more than 20 concerts and staged performances were presented, giving the students invaluable experience and privilege of appearing on stage with some of the top musical artists in their field. All performances were

produced at various venues around the Big Island. The 2020 Virtual Festival featured 14 free concerts, masterclasses, and special events, featuring a world-class roster of artists, available to audiences both locally and internationally. Last summer, HPAF featured four live concerts as part of the 2021 Summer Festival, *The Journey Back*.

During the fall, winter, and spring months, HPAF offers special performances to help support scholarships for aspiring young artists to attend the festival each summer. Previous high season performances have included Jake Shimabukuro, Ofra Harnoy, Stanford University's Fleet Street Singers, and *An Evening at the Stork Club* — an HPAF original production.

## MISSION STATEMENT

HPAF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the appreciation and advancement of classical music and musical theatre, to offer a world-class music training and performance program in the inspirational setting of Hawaii, and to improve the education and elevate the spirit of all who participate, especially the local community.



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# Support The Arts

**H**awai'i Performing Arts Festival has recently revamped its giving programs so that donors can not only feel part of a dedicated family of supporters but can come closer to the world-class music they help to create!

**We invite you to join  
our loyal ohana of  
HPAF supporters today.**

Give the gift of music and  
**FIND YOUR ALOHA**  
with us this season in paradise.

**MAKE A GIFT**

# Mahala

HPAF would not be possible without the continued support, loyalty, and enthusiasm of so many contributors, sponsors, partners, and volunteers. This season, we are especially grateful for the overwhelming support of our beloved Ohana.

## PLATINUM SEASON SPONSOR (\$50,000 AND UP)

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## GOLD SEASON SPONSOR (\$20,000-\$49,999)

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## SILVER SEASON SPONSOR (\$10,000-\$19,999)

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## BRONZE SEASON SPONSOR (\$5,000-\$9,999)

**Laura Benz**  
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# Mahalo

## **HPAF MEMBER (\$1,500-\$4,999)**

Marilyn & Carl Bernhardt  
Paul & Charlene Dahlquist  
Lynne Schneider & Dick Fusch  
Nancy Stephenson  
Michael Thompson

## **HPAF SUPPORTER (\$100-\$1,499)**

Armanino LLP  
Marilyn Gilbert  
Karla Miller  
A. Mitzenmacher  
Justin John Moniz  
William Stull  
Joanne & David Turner  
Val Underwood

*\*All gifts received prior to June 8th in support of our 2022 Festival have been acknowledged above.  
Gifts received following this date will be recognized via the HPAF website.*

## **PRODUCING PARTNERS**

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Lisa Wells  
Bailey Wharton  
Waimea Guest House

## **VOLUNTEERS & HELPING HANDS**

Georjean Adams  
Joanie Collins  
Steve & Beth Dunnington  
Genette Freeman, ED Emerita  
Olivia Ebrahimi  
Virginia Fortner  
Shelene & Steve Grey  
Elaine Hofmann  
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& SATURDAY**

**3:00 PM  
TO SUNSET**

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*Fairmont*  
ORCHID

# HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INITIATIVE

This summer, HPAF is thrilled to launch its Hawaiian Cultural Initiative. Thanks to the generous support of the State of Hawai'i and Hawaii Tourism Authority, HPAF will offer a series of classes aimed to strengthen faculty, staff, and students' engagement and understanding of the rich culture of Hawai'i. Led by local faculty members, this summer's curriculum will include kukui and Lāi'i lei making, the history of Hawai'i, Hawaiian language, and hula instruction. It is the aim of this initiative to provide a greater sense of community and appreciation for the native land and its people.

In addition, the Festival will celebrate the start of its 18th season with a tribute to the rich culture of Hawai'i during a special performance at the Fairmont Orchid's Plantation Estate on Thursday, June 30 at 7pm. The evening will feature performances by Hawane Rios (HPAF Alumna), Blayne Asing, Kaulu Amaral with Pomai Brown and Friends, and Hālau Ka'eaikahelani. All proceeds raised from this concert will support HPAF scholarships for local underserved students.

*Hawane Rios (HPAF Alumna) and headliner during The Spirit of Hawai'i.*



## EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

HPAF's commitment to music education reaches far beyond the training of our participants. This season, a number of our developing singers will bring a special performance of arias, songs, and duets to the Waikoloa Summer Camp for K-8 students. The goal of this experience is to introduce culturally, geographically, and economically disadvantaged students to world opera and musical theatre performance.

Our "Behind the Curtain Series" will welcome audience members before the Sunday matinee performances of *As*

*One, Orpheus in the Underworld*, and *Hair*. These pre-curtain discussions will offer an opportunity for members of the community to engage with HPAF artists on thematic material and the process of bringing an artistic vision to the stage.

Finally, we will welcome underserved youth (and up to two parents or guardians) to the final dress rehearsals of *As One, Orpheus in the Underworld*, and *Hair*. For more information or to be a part of this unique experience, please email [assistants@hawaiipaf.org](mailto:assistants@hawaiipaf.org).

# The HPAF Legacy

**F**or the past 18 years, Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival has continued to provide world-class training and performance opportunities to aspiring young artists, both from Hawai'i Island and worldwide.

Following their time at HPAF, our esteemed alumni have gone on to grace some of the world's greatest stages, most notably The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, English National Opera, Royal Opera House, Florida Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, and have appeared in film and television, on Broadway, National Tours, and regionally.





## ALUMNI *in Action*

HPAF is proud to share some of the recent achievements of our many wonderful alumni. Please join us in celebrating these remarkable artists — many of whom got their start at HPAF.

### **EVAN BRAVOS**

(Encrantz Fellow Alumnus) recently sang the role of Hannah After in *As One* with Opera Santa Barbara and Le Dancaire in *Carmen* with Chicago Opera Theatre alongside Stephanie Blythe and Jamie Barton. Evan is currently pursuing a D.M.A. in Vocal Performance at Northwestern University. HPAF audiences may remember Evan for his portrayal of the title role in *Don Giovanni* in 2017.



**SARA LAW** (Developing Singer Alumna) makes her Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre debut this summer as Frasquita in Bizet's *Carmen* and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. This fall, Sara will join the Young Artist Program at Opera Orlando where she will sing cover the roles of The Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* and Marie in *The Daughter of the Regiment*. HPAF audiences may most recently remember Sara for her portrayals of April in *Company* in 2019 and Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* in 2018.



**ALYSIA LEE** (Professional Fellow Alumna) recently earned awards from The Kennedy Center, The Knight Foundation, National Association of University Women, Stockton Bartol Foundation, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and BEQ Pride. Alysia's work focuses on advancing access, equity, and decolonization with leaders, organizations, and communities. Her methods center on youth, anti-racism, creativity, and justice. HPAF audiences may remember Alysia from the 2011 season where she appeared in numerous concerts across the Big Island including *Wine, Women, and Song*.



**CECILIA VIOLETTA LOPEZ** (Developing Singer Alumna) makes her Houston Grand Opera debut as Violetta in Verdi's *La traviata* this fall. Cecilia will also sing the title role in *Rusalka* with Opera Idaho in April 2023. HPAF audiences may remember Cecilia for her portrayal of the title role in Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* in 2011 or for gorgeous solo recital during the 2020 Virtual Festival.



## **BRENNAN MARTINEZ**

(Encrantz Fellow Alumna) makes her Utah Festival Opera debut this summer as Antonia in *The Man of La Mancha* and covers the roles of Mercedes in *Carmen* and the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. HPAF audiences may remember Brennan for her portrayal of the title role in *The Tragedy of Carmen* in 2019.



## **HALLIE SCHMIDT**

(Young Singer & Developing Singer Alumna) makes her Opera Theatre of St. Louis debut this summer covering The Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*. HPAF audiences may most recently remember Hallie from her performance of Tytania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2019 and for the first-prize winning performance during the 2020 HPAF Vocal Competition: Classical Division.



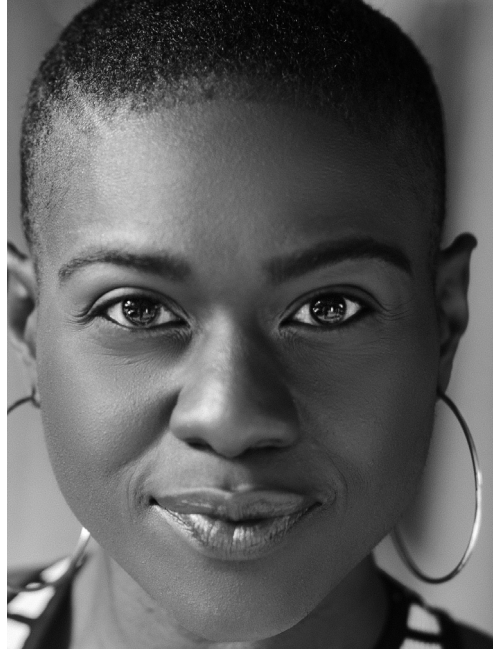
## **JOHN TIBBETTS**

(Encrantz Fellow Alumnus) makes his Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre debut as the baritone soloist in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Reuben in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. HPAF audiences may remember John for his portrayals of Harry in *Company* and Escamillo in *The Tragedy of Carmen* in 2019.



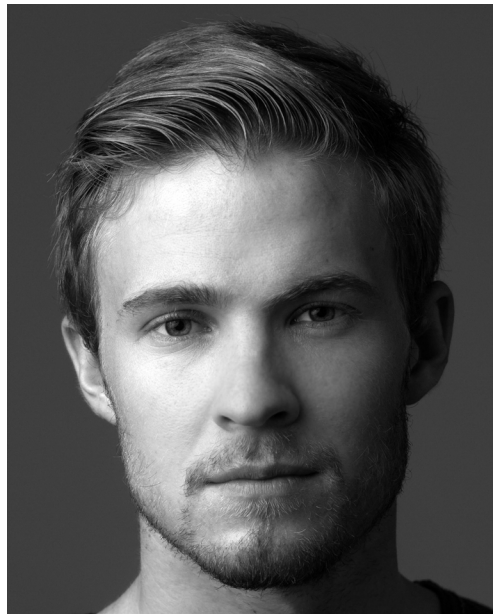
## NYLA WATSON

(Encrantz Fellow Alumna) recently appeared in *Waitress* on Broadway alongside Sara Bareilles. Following her run, Nyla made her debut in the Off-Broadway production of *Black No More*. HPAF audiences may most recently remember Nyla for her performance of *Rise Up!* in 2021 and for her first-prize winning performance during the 2020 HPAF Vocal Competition: Musical Theatre Division.



## AIDAN WHARTON

(Young Singer Alumnus) is currently a member of the Tony-nominated production *Girl from the North Country*. He recently appeared at the 2022 Tony Awards. He will also appear in the upcoming films *Bros* from Universal Studios and Fox Searchlight's *Fire Island*. HPAF audiences may remember Aidan for his tireless work over the span of five seasons.

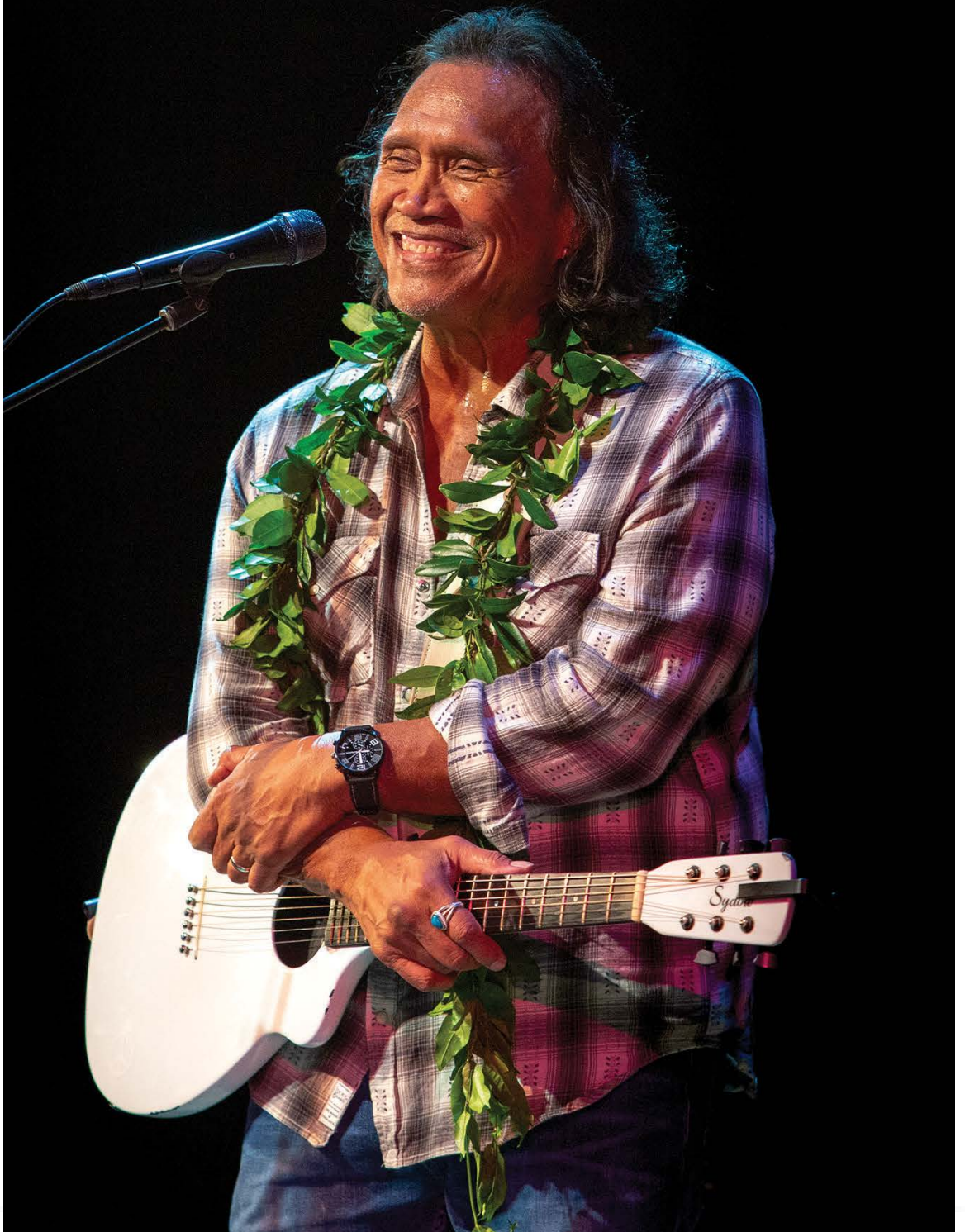




# BIG ISLAND MUSIC MAGAZINE

*We cover Hawai'i Island's entertainment scene*

[WWW.BIGISLANDMUSIC.NET](http://WWW.BIGISLANDMUSIC.NET)



# Calendar of Events

## LIFELONG SINGER SHOWCASE

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 • 4:00 PM

Gates Performing Arts Center

The final cabaret performance of the 2022 Lifelong Singer Program.

Free — General Admission

## FESTIVAL OPENER: THE SPIRIT OF HAWAI'I

THURSDAY, JUNE 30 • 7:00 PM

Plantation Estate at Fairmont Orchid

HPAF celebrates the rich culture of Hawai'i in this transcendent season opener, featuring performances by Hawane Rios, Blayne Asing, Kaulu Amaral with Pomai Brown and Friends, and Hālau Ka'eaikahelani. All proceeds will support the HPAF Scholarship Fund for local high school students.

\$75 — General Admission

Sponsored by State Hawai'i, Hawaii Tourism Authority, & Fairmont Orchid.

## OPERA ON THE ROCKS

FRIDAY, JULY 1 • 7:00 PM

Palace Theatre Lobby (Fridays at the Palace)

SUNDAY, JULY 3 • 4:00 PM

The Ocean Club at One Ocean, Mauna Lanī Resort

A perennial favorite performance featuring HPAF Faculty and Encrantz Vocal Fellows.

\$30 — General Admission

\$60 — General Admission

Sponsored by Carol & Clive Davies.

## GREAT PERFORMANCES I

THURSDAY, JULY 7 • 7:00 PM

Private Home, Kohala Ranch

An intimate evening of chamber music featuring HPAF Faculty and Guests Artists in Kohala Ranch. This performance includes a post-concert meet and greet with the artists and a complimentary champagne toast.

\$60 — General Admission

Sponsored by Andy Czajkowski.

## MUSIC AT THE MOVIES (FRIDAYS AT THE PALACE SERIES)

FRIDAY, JULY 8 • 7:00 PM

Palace Theatre

From the world's greatest stages to The Big Island, the cast of Orpheus performs beloved favorites from the movies, old and new.

\$30 — General Admission

## AS ONE

SATURDAY, JULY 9 • 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 10 • 4:00 PM

In Residence at Kahilu Theatre

Hannah, a transgender woman, discovers her gender identity and learns to love herself in this ground-breaking new 75-minute chamber opera.

\$25, \$35, \$45 — Reserved Seating

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN: AS ONE

SUNDAY, JULY 10 • 3:00 PM

Simperman Gallery at Kahilu Theatre

Join the artistic team of As One in an engaging and intimate pre-show discussion surrounding the process of bringing Hannah to life.

Free — General Admission

## PASTA ALLA PUCCINI

TUESDAY, JULY 12 • 7:00 PM

K'olu Clubhouse at Hualalai

Delight in an elegant sunset serenade of your Italian operatic favorites from our own "opera stars" of As One.

PRIVATE EVENT (Hualalai Residents, only)

Sponsored by Four Seasons Hualalai.

## GREAT PERFORMANCES II

THURSDAY, JULY 14 • 7:00 PM

In Residence at Kahilu Theatre

An evening of chamber music and opera featuring HPAF Faculty and Guests Artists.

\$15, \$25, \$35 — Reserved Seating

## AN EVENING WITH JOEY CONTRERAS & FRIENDS

FRIDAY, JULY 15 • 7:00 PM

Palace Theatre

(Fridays at the Palace Series)

Join Mexican-American award-winning musical theatre composer, Joey Contreras, in an intimate evening of musical theatre and cabaret favorites featuring the cast of Hair.

\$30 — General Admission

## ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

SATURDAY, JULY 16 • 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 17 • 4:00 PM

In Residence at Kahilu Theatre

Offenbach's operetta is a satire of the famous Orpheus myth and features the popular 'Cancan'.

\$25, \$35, \$45 — Reserved Seating

*Sponsored by Michael Thompson and Marilyn & Carl Bernhardt.*

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN: ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

SUNDAY, JULY 17 • 3:00 PM

Simperman Gallery at Kahilu Theatre

Join the artistic team of Orpheus in the Underworld in an insightful and intimate pre-show discussion surrounding the process of mounting this timeless classic.

Free — General Admission

## YOUNG SINGERS SHOWCASE

THURSDAY, JULY 21 • 7:00 PM

Gates Performing Arts Center

FRIDAY, JULY 22 • 7:00 PM

Palace Theatre (Fridays at the Palace Series)

A fully-staged performance featuring HPAF's Young Singer Program participants from Hawai'i Island and beyond.

\$30 — General Admission

\$30 — General Admission

## HAIR

SATURDAY, JULY 23 • 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 24 • 4:00 PM

In Residence at Kahilu Theatre

Let the sun shine! This 1968 rock musical remains relevant as ever as it celebrates community, identity, politics, peace, and what it means to be a young person in a changing world.

\$25, \$35, \$45 — Reserved Seating

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN: HAIR

SUNDAY, JULY 24 • 3:00 PM

Simperman Gallery at Kahilu Theatre

Join the artistic team of Hair in a thoughtful and intimate pre-show discussion surrounding the relevancy of this story in both 1968 and 2022.

Free — General Admission

TICKETS AND MORE INFO AT

[HawaiiPerformingArtsFestival.org](https://HawaiiPerformingArtsFestival.org)



*Find Your Aloha*

# ADMINISTRATION



**JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ\*** — Executive Director | Music Director/Conductor, *Hair* | Co-Chair, The Encrantz Vocal Fellowship Program

A recipient of the Yamaha Corporation's 2022 Top 40 Music Educator Award, Dr. Justin John Moniz serves as Associate Director of Vocal Performance and Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy at New York University's (NYU) Steinhardt School. At NYU, Moniz leads the graduate vocal pedagogy program and teaches courses in pedagogical theory, practice, and applied voice. In addition, he directs the DownBeat Award-winning NYU Pop/Rock Ensemble. Since August 2017, Moniz has served as Executive Director of HPAF. His innovative programming has earned HPAF both global recognition and multiple awards from the National Opera Association, The American Prize, and BroadwayWorld. Throughout Moniz's administrative tenure, he has won the organization over a million dollars in public and private grants, increased the annual operating budget by nearly 40%, and yielded the highest student enrollment in the festival's 18-year history. Prior to his work as Executive Director, Moniz served as Associate Executive Director, Assistant Artistic Director, and Vocal Faculty Chair. A three-time winner of The American Prize in Vocal Performance, Moniz has sung over 90 roles with companies including Opera Grand Rapids, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Sarasota Opera, Florida Grand Opera, The Columbus Philharmonic, DreamCatcher Theatre, and more. His debut solo album, *Along the Way* (2021), is available on all streaming platforms. Dr. Moniz holds four degrees from Florida State University, the University of Miami, and SUNY Potsdam, and certifications from Harvard Business School, Duke University, and the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM). He has received young alumni awards from all three of his alma maters and was previously named one of Florida State University's Notable Noles, University of Miami's 30 Under 30, and a SUNY Potsdam Rising Star. As a voice teacher, researcher, and NASM Certified Personal Trainer, Moniz's current research focuses on identifying the parallels between the worlds of voice science and sports medicine, more specifically concerning vocal load, efficiency, and sustainability. His article, "Regulating Vocal Load in High Impact Production," was recently published in the May/June 2022 issue of the *Journal of Singing*. For more information: [justinjohnmoniz.com](http://justinjohnmoniz.com) / @jj\_moniz

\* denotes HPAF Alumni

# ADMINISTRATION



## **VAL UNDERWOOD** – Artistic Director | Co-Chair, The Encrantz Vocal Fellowship Program | Vocal Faculty

Val Underwood is Artistic Director of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. He is distinctive for his equal skill as a pianist (the LA Times described his playing as “exquisite”) and as a voice teacher. He has trained a number of successful concert pianists, as well as singers who appear with companies world-wide. As a pianist he has performed in concert with principle players of the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics and with artists such as Mitchell Lurie, Eudice Shapiro, Glenn Dicterow, Ofra Harnoy, Gary Gray, Jeannine Altmeyer, Jennifer McGregor, Ricky Ian Gordon and many others. His film and television performances include the Masterpiece production of Willa Cather’s *The Song of the Lark*. After directing programs in The Strawberry Creek Festival and The Adriatic Chamber Music Festival, he co-founded Hawaii Performing Arts Festival in 2004 with his close friend, Genette Freeman. Hawaii Performing Arts Festival has hosted hundreds of students from all over the world and an acclaimed faculty of performers and teachers. His teaching career has taken him regularly to Los Angeles, New York and London. He guest lectures and conducts master classes at schools throughout the country. He counts among his own most influential teachers Rita Hutcherson, Reginald Stewart, Dora Zaslavsky, and Arminda Canteros (student of Vincenzo Scaramuzza) in piano and Ernest St. John (Jack) Metz and Martial Singher in voice. Early in his career, he had opportunities to accompany in the studios of some of the great singers/teachers of the century – Lotte Lehmann, George London, Rose Bampton and Martial Singher. He is honored that a number of his colleagues and former students have been esteemed faculty members of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.

# ADMINISTRATION



**SCOTT SKIBA** — Assistant Artistic Director | Chair, Stage Directing Fellowship Program | Stage Director, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Award-winning stage director Scott Skiba has led more than 80 new productions with companies including Indianapolis Opera, Pensacola Opera, Opera Tampa, Toledo Opera, Natchez Festival of Music, Opera Grand Rapids, and Mobile Opera. Scott serves as Executive Artistic Director for Cleveland Opera Theater and Production Director for Opera Western Reserve.

Scott launched {NOW} Fest, Cleveland Opera Theater's annual festival to create, develop, and produce new opera, and he serves on the Chamber Opera Composition Committee for the National Opera Association. Scott's work includes directing and producing interdisciplinary collaborations in alternative and site-specific venues including *Sweets By Kate* (Marble City Opera) performed in Sugar Mama's Bakery Knoxville; *The New Opera Project* in collaboration with Interlochen Arts Academy, Parallel 45 Theatre Company, and Inside Out Gallery in Traverse City; and the *iLyric project* - installation of nine operas throughout historic Arezzo, Italy in collaboration with the ICASTICA Festival. Scott is Director of Opera Studies for Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, where he has directed numerous productions including *Pelléas + Mélisande* (Winner of The American Prize for Opera Performance, and The Charles Nelson Reilly Prize in Stage Direction) and *The Dialogues of the Carmelites* (1st Place winner NOA Collegiate Opera Production Competition). Previous appointments include Executive Director of the Oberlin in Italy opera training program, Instructor of Voice and Opera Theater, Interlochen Arts Academy; and Associate Instructor of Voice, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Scott devised and directed multiple projects to continue artistic collaboration throughout the pandemic including *Opera ON DEMAND* for the Curtis Institute of Music, *A Taste of Traviata* - a cinematic adaptation of *La Traviata* for Opera Western Reserve; and *Operas in Place*, nine new short operas by World-renowned composers and librettists in collaboration with Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, Cleveland Opera Theater, and On Site Opera in NYC. Other recent productions include *Alcina*, and *Le nozze di Figaro* (Baldwin Wallace), *Don Giovanni* (Indianapolis Opera), and the World-premiere production of *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* (Baldwin Wallace / Cleveland Opera Theater). Upcoming engagements include *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Baldwin Wallace Nov. '22) and *La Bohème* (Opera Western Reserve - Nov. '22).  
More info: [www.ScottSkiba.com](http://www.ScottSkiba.com)

# ADMINISTRATION



## **RACHEL E. COPELAND** – General Manager | Chair, Vocal Faculty

Rachel E. Copeland continues to receive acclaim as a “revelation with her coloratura soprano leaping easily to impossible heights!” She is a sought after artist combining her crystalline voice with her compelling and energetic stage presence. Ms. Copeland recently debuted at Avery Fisher Hall as the soprano soloist in Mozart’s Coronation Mass to rave reviews as well as performances with the Brussels Chamber Orchestra in a concert of arias and duets. Other career highlights include the Contessa in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Cleveland Opera Theater, Frasquita in Bizet’s *Carmen* with San Diego Opera, Micaela in Peter Brook’s *Le tragédie de Carmen* with Indianapolis Opera, and Woglinde in Wagner’s *Das Rheingold* and first nymph in Dvorak’s *Rusalka* with North Carolina Opera. She returned to Apollo’s Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra in 2013 to great acclaim as the Queen of the Night in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, including a national broadcast and her debut at Severance Hall, the prestigious home to the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. Other considerable performances include Ms. Copeland’s appearances as Zdenka in Strauss’s *Arabella*, Musetta and Mimì in *La bohème*, Lauretta in Puccini’s beloved *Gianni Schicchi*, Lucia in Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Juliette in Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette*, Adele in J. Strauss’ *Die Fledermaus*, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. Internationally, Ms. Copeland has performed the roles of Donna Elvira in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and Adina in Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*. Recent engagements included a world premiere workshop with Cleveland Opera Theatre, a world premiere with Penn State Opera Theater, and a role and company debut of Agueda in *Mayo, Bisperas ng Liwanag in the Philippines* (cancelled due to COVID). In addition to the operatic stage, Ms. Copeland has been praised for her “elegant and smooth tone” in oratorio and symphonic works. As a frequent performer with the Helena Symphony (MT), Ms. Copeland has most recently sung the role of Eve in Hadyn’s *The Creation* and as the soprano soloist for Bach’s *Mass in B minor* as well as the *St. Matthew Passion*. Other notable engagements were with Apollo’s Fire for Handel’s *Messiah*, The Choral Society of Durham (NC) as the soprano soloist in Barber’s *Prayers of Kierkegaard*, and the soprano soloist in Hadyn’s “Lord Nelson’s Mass” and “Missa belle tempori.” Dr. Copeland began an appointment at Penn State School of Music as a member of the Voice Department in Fall, 2018, and now also serves as the Associate Director, Director of Graduate Programs. She previously was on the faculty of East Carolina University School of Music where she served as the Associate Director (2016 – 2018), the Coordinator of Graduate Studies (2014 – 2018), and a member of the Voice Faculty (2011 – 2018). In both academic years 2017 – 18 and 2014 -2015, Dr. Copleand was nominated for the Robert Wright Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award at East Carolina University. Many of Dr. Copeland’s students have received awards, scholarships, assistantships, and are featured in principle roles at the undergraduate and graduate level at prestigious music schools like Boston Conservatory, Indiana University, Florida State University, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and the University of North Texas, in addition to sharing the stage with luminaries of the field like Natalie Dessay to Vanessa Williams. Dr. Copeland is frequently sought after as a master class technician both nationally and abroad and has been on the faculty of the *Cornish American Song Institute* in Falmouth, England since 2016 and *Cantos para hermanar al mundo* in Torrèon, Mexico in 2019. During the summers of 2011 and 2012, Dr. Copeland was a faculty member of *Musica nelle Marche* in Urbania, Italy. Administratively, Dr. Copeland serves at General Manager for the *Hawaii Performing Arts Festival* and has previously served in the positions of Program Director (2017) as well as the Operations Manager (2011 – 2016) for *Oberlin in Italy* in Arezzo, Italy. Dr. Copeland holds the Doctor of Music degree in Vocal Performance with a minor in Music History from Indiana University; the Master of Music degree in Voice Performance from Baylor University; and the Bachelor of Music Education degree in Choral Conducting from Baylor University.

# ADMINISTRATION



## **SHAYNA LEAHY** — Artistic Administrator

Shayna Leahy currently serves as the Artistic Administrator for HPAF after spending two summers as the Director of Production. She most recently was the stage director for Wichita Grand Opera's 2019 production of *Carmen*, having previously directed productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *Turandot*, *Otello*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Aida* for them. She made her directing debut with New York City Opera in September 2018, with a production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in Bryant Park. Her productions are hailed as being “deeply felt, and deeply moving” with emphasis on “fine acting as well as strong singing” (Wichita Eagle). Her work has been featured on Kansas Public TV. She has also served as Assistant Director of Martina Arroyo's Prelude to Performance Program in New York, was faculty for the Opera Academy of the Midwest, and is currently the Director of Vocal Studies at Highland Community College, where she has led a nationally-recognized opera education initiative in collaboration with Wichita Grand Opera. Her productions at HCC have been Region V finalists in KCACTF, and she received the Region V KCACTF Outstanding Music Director award for her work on *Rent*. In addition, she has coached and music directed multiple students who have received national KCACTF awards for Distinguished Performance in a Musical.



## **IRMA SINGER** — Director of Finance

Irma Singer is a native of California, originally hailing from Culver City in Los Angeles County, where she began her career as a bookkeeper working for an independent jewelry manufacturer. In 1985, Irma relocated to Santa Barbara, CA, where she continued her bookkeeping occupation working for a developer of AI programming languages. Irma progressed into providing personalized bookkeeping for private individuals, as well as maintaining a full-time position as Accounting Manager at a Four Diamond hotel in Santa Barbara, where she has been employed for the last 29 years. Irma joined the Board of Directors of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival as a Treasurer. She continues to provide support to HPAF as it begins its 18th season.



# ADMINISTRATION



## **SABINA BALSAMO** — Artistic Administration Intern

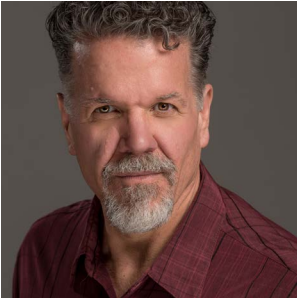
Sabina Balsamo is the Artistic Director of Sohap Ensemble, a chamber music group that performs contemporary classical music in concert and educational outreach settings. She has been teaching private voice and piano lessons for four years and maintains a private studio online and in Boulder, CO. As an operatic soprano, Balsamo is passionate about new music. She has premiered and workshoped roles in Cleveland Opera Theater's New Opera Works Festival and CU Now in Boulder, CO. Her upcoming engagements include Luna in *Colorado Sky* (Sohap Ensemble and Art Song Colorado) and soprano soloist in Sohap Ensemble's Concert Series. Balsamo received her Bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace University and her Master's degree from the University of Colorado Boulder, both in Vocal Performance. Sabina is thrilled to spend the summer with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival administration team!



## **CIARA NEWMAN** — Artistic Administration Intern

Ciara Emily Newman is a soprano and an Alaska native. Currently living in Cleveland, Ohio Ciara is kept busy teaching a private studio while cultivating a career as a professional performer. During the spring of 2021 Ciara earned her Master's degree in vocal performance and pedagogy at the Pennsylvania State University. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ciara has continued to perform, exploring the many ways opera can live outside of the theater. Recently, she performed a live radio broadcast of Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* with Penn State Opera Theater. Ciara was seen in the concert premier of Griffin Candey's *The House of Bernarda Alba* as Magdalena in January of 2020. She has also performed in the Midwest premier of Tom Cipullo's *Glory Denied* as Older Alyce Thompson. Previous roles include Papagena in Opera Fairbanks' production of *The Magic Flute*, Madame Lidoine in Baldwin Wallace University's production of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and Elisetta in Cimerosa's *Il Matrimonio Segreto*. While dedicating her life to a career on the operatic stage Ciara also has a passion for musical theatre, she has performed in regional productions of *RENT*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Les Misérables*.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **WILLIAM NIELD CHRISTENSEN** — Vocal Faculty

William Nield Christensen has been a member of the voice faculty at the Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University since August of 2004. His students have achieved significant levels of success: he has had a Grand Prize Winner at the Naftzger Young Artist Competition, a first prize winner at the Vocal Arts DC Young Artists Music Competition, a first prize winner in the vocal division of the Crescendo Music awards, a 2nd place winner in the Irene Dalis Awards, the Dr. Robert Campbell/Cesare Santeramo Award in the Opera Index Competition, two semi-finalists at the Lois Alba Aria Competition, a semi-finalist at the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Competition, a semi-finalist at the Eleanor McCollum Competition at the Houston Grand Opera. His students have sung on the stages of Deutsche Oper Berlin, San Francisco Opera, Glimmerglass Opera Festival, Fort Worth Opera, Sarasota Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Des Moines Opera, Opera Santa Barbara and Virginia Opera. Dr. Christensen has performed with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the Fort Smith Symphony, Brightmusic Society of Oklahoma, the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, the Santa Barbara Choral Society, Grand Opera Santa Barbara, Opera Santa Barbara, and the Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen.



## **JOEY CONTRERAS** — Composer in Residence | Music Director/Pianist, *An Evening with Joey Contreras*

Joey Contreras is a New York based, Mexican-American musical theatre and pop songwriter, internationally known for his various projects, performances and studio album releases, amassing millions of streams. He is a Fred Ebb Award finalist, a two-time Jonathan Larson Grant finalist, and an alum from the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project and NYU Grad MT Writing Program. His musical “In Pieces” is currently licensed worldwide. A highlights album was released by Broadway Records in 2021. His musicals with Kate Thomas include “All The Kids Are Doing It” (O’Neill NMTC Finalist), “Forget Me Not” and “Elements.” He is the composer of “Heartbreakers in Hell”, a modern day adaptation of Dante’s Inferno written with book writer/lyricist Benjamin Halstead. Additionally, he has composed for the Walt Disney Company, The 5th Avenue Theatre and various short films. He regularly teaches songwriting through private coaching and group master classes at universities and theatre programs worldwide. Find more at <http://www.joeycontreras.com> and follow along on all socials: @joeycontreras.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **BETH DUNNINGTON** — Stage Director, *As One* | Acting Faculty

Beth Dunnington is a stage director and acting teacher for HPAF, and served as Director of their Preteen Singers program. Beth directed HPAF's *The Last Five Years*, *Big Island Broadway*, and *Company*. In 2021, she directed HPAF's *Stars of Tomorrow* at the Kahilu Theatre. She played The Witch in HPAF's *Into The Woods* and Madame Armfeldt in their *A Little Night Music*. She starred in *Que Sueñes Con Las Angelitas* at

Jazz at Lincoln Center – a theatre-dance piece she wrote with Prince Dance. *Que Sueñes* also performed a tour of the Hawaiian Islands. Some favorite opera roles: Papagena in *The Magic Flute*, directed by Broadway director Tom O'Horgan; Susan B. Anthony in Virgil Thomson's *The Mother Of Us All*, directed by NY Times classical music critic, Tony Tommasini; Georgia O'Keefe in *Nearby Faraway*, opposite J.K. Simmons, and Azuri in *The Desert Song*. She recently played Trunchbull in Kahilu's *Matilda the Musical*. For Kahilu she directed *Sondheim & Friends*, *Spelling Bee*, three *Broadway in Hawaii* concerts, *Grease*, *Godspell*, *13 – The Musical*, *Spring Awakening*, and *West Side Story*. In November, she directed *All Together Now*, a “global event” musical revue. Beth is the Director of the Kahilu Youth Troupe, the acting/musical theatre teacher for Kahilu's performing arts classes, and she sits on the Kahilu Board of Directors. She's married to developer Steve Dunnington. Their children, Marena and Sean, are proud HPAF alumni. Beth is thrilled to return to HPAF for her 10th season. She is a long-time member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA.



## **CARL DUPONT** — Vocal Faculty

Carl DuPont is an artist, innovator, and educator dedicated to *Transformational Inclusion* in the arts and *Care of the Professional Voice*. His “rich, nuanced baritone” (Columbus Underground) has held center stage in performances at The Glimmerglass Festival, Opera Carolina, First Coast Opera, Toledo Opera, Opera Saratoga, Sarasota Opera, Cedar Rapids Opera, El Palacio de Bellas Artes, Opera Company of Brooklyn, The IN Series, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center,

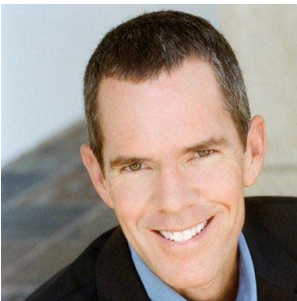
and Leipzig Opera. This season DuPont returned to Opera Columbus in a production of *Fellow Travelers*, as a local favorite, after previously appearing there as Don Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* and Leporello in *Don Giovanni*. He debuted this season with Bach in Baltimore in the title role of *Elijah* and in concert at the Anchorage Festival of Music in Alaska. He returned to Carnegie Hall in May as the bass soloist in Z. Randall Stroop's *American Rhapsody*. His articles can be found in *The Laryngoscope* and the *Voice and Speech Review*. DuPont can be heard on the world premiere recordings of the *Caldara Mass in A Major*, *The Death of Webern*, and his solo album of art songs by Black composers entitled *The Reaction*. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music (BM), Indiana University (MM), and the University of Miami (DMA), he currently serves as a voice professor at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



**ALEXANDRA ENYART** — Music Director/Conductor, *As One*

Alexandra Enyart has been called “one of Chicago’s greatest operatic gifts” (Chicago Theatre Review) and “a podium talent to watch” (Chicago Classical Review). She’s performed with Opera Columbus, Australian Contemporary Opera Company, Opera Orlando, and many others around the country and globe. She has served as a Chicago Sinfonietta Fellow and as a “Turn the Spotlight” fellow with Chicago Opera Theatre music director, Lidiya Yankovskaya. In 2017 Alexandra won the CODA conducting competition and in 2018 she won CCM’s Mozart Overture Conducting Competition. Alexandra served as a panelist at the Opera America conference in 2021 and serves currently on the Artistic Advisory Council for American Opera Projects. Alexandra is as comfortable on the podium as she is in the opera pit having made her international debut in Tomsk Russia with the Tomsk Philharmonic Orchestra in 2016 while finishing her Master’s in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Louisville. At the same time she also worked as the apprentice conductor with the Louisville Orchestra and Kentucky Opera as well as the Assistant Conductor for the Louisville Youth Orchestra. Alexandra works as a champion of new music and helped to bring *As One*, *When Adonis Calls*, *Patience and Sarah* to the stage, among many others. She also champions young singers and advocates for every voice in her work with Chicago Vocal Arts Consortium which includes productions of *La finta giardiniera*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and *L’elisir d’amore* with many more to come!



**PAUL FLOYD** — Co-Chair, Collaborative Piano | Professional Fellowship Program | Music Director/Conductor, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Paul Floyd is in demand as a pianist and coach in Southern California and beyond. He teaches on the adjunct faculty at Chapman University, where he works with both the opera and keyboard collaborative arts programs, and is a Lecturer in the vocal department of the University of California, Los Angeles. For sixteen years he served as an Assistant Conductor with Los Angeles Opera where he collaborated with some of the opera world’s greatest singers and conductors, played in the opera orchestra, and was regularly featured as a lecturer at pre-performance talks. He continues to work closely with the LA Opera Education and Engagement department in many capacities. In the summers he has held similar positions with The Santa Fe Opera, the Aspen Music Festival, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and the Astoria Festival in Oregon. He is a frequent accompanist for the Western Region finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Paul holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in addition to piano degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Southern California where he graduated *summa cum laude*. His film credits include an appearance with Julie Andrews and Anna Netrebko in *Princess Diaries II* (Disney, 2004) and a Walt Disney Concert Hall performance with Vivica Genaux in Anthony Hopkins’ *Fracture* (Newline, 2007).

# FACULTY ARTISTS



**RONNY MICHAEL GREENBERG** — Co-Chair,  
Collaborative Piano Professional Fellowship Program |  
Vocal Coaching Faculty

Pianist Ronny Michael Greenberg has been heard in opera houses and concert halls around the world. Most recently he went on tour with Tenor Pene Pati in Italy and New Zealand performing in Milan, Florence, San Bonifacio, Auckland, Tauranga and Waikato. His other performance experiences include guest soloist appearances with the Montreal Symphony

Orchestra and concerts at the historical Steinway Hall, the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, and the Schubert Hall at the Vienna Konzerthaus. Mr. Greenberg is an active member of San Francisco Opera's Music Staff where he serves as rehearsal pianist and vocal coach. Over the last four seasons he has worked on *Two Women*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Carmen*, *Aida*, *Rigoletto*, *Turandot*, *La Traviata*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci* and *Arabella*. In 2019, he will be featured as harpsichordist for Handel's *Orlando* and will return for two fall productions (season announcement in the New Year). Other companies he has collaborated with include Opera San Jose, Opera Parallèle, Townsend Opera and Yale Opera. A proud Merola Alumnus, Mr. Greenberg was honored to launch 2019 as Assistant Conductor for the opera workshop on Jake Heggie's *'If I Were You'* commissioned by the Merola Opera Program. He has been appointed as the 2019 Merola Gala Auction Co-chair and will present recitals at the University Club in the spring and fall featuring Merola alumni.



**CHAN MI JEAN** — Music Director, Young Singer  
Program | Vocal Coach

Chan Mi Jean is the Lecturer in Music at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she specializes in Collaborative Piano. Jean is an emerging solo pianist, chamber musician, and opera coach who has made her international appearances including performances in Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Italy, Thailand, and the United States. Jean has established herself as an opera coach through years of training

and worked on many operas in Europe and the U.S. with world renowned conductors such as David Effron, Jane Glover, Andrew Bisantz, and Ari Pelto. She was a recipient of the Opera Coach Fellowship for Aspen Opera Center for one of the mainstage shows *La Clemenza di Tito* in summer of 2017 with the invitation for the same position for *Trouble in Tahiti* in 2018. Prior to joining UT Martin, Jean has served as the Apprentice Coach for the Virginia Opera. As an active chamber musician, Jean has performed with various musicians on a wide range of repertoire. Jean was the winner of the Irving Shain Woodwind-Piano Duo Competition with Oboist Dr. Emily Knappen and has received an Honorable Mention in the American Prize Instrumental Solo Competition for her recent recording with UT Martin tuba professor Dr. Steve Darling. A native of Seoul, Korea, Jean has received her D.M.A. in Collaborative Piano from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a minor in Opera Coaching; M.M. and P.D. in Piano Performance from Indiana University.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **DEBRA MCGEE** — Choreographer, *Hair*

Debra moved to Hawaii island in 2011 after performing, teaching, and choreographing in NY and MN Twin Cities for over two decades. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College in N.Y.C. There she performed works by José Limón, Milton Myers, Jeffrey Holder, Louis Falco, Virginia Johnson and Lar Lubovich.

Debra is a former member of Garth Fagan Dance and performed his works nationally and internationally. Thereafter, she began teaching and choreographing again while training vocally at the Eastman School of Music in NY. Thereafter, she returned to MN where she worked with former Alvin Ailey principal's company called TU Dance, performed in numerous musicals and worked as a teaching artist. She has taught and created works at the University of Minnesota, Gustavus Adolphus College, The Cowles Center, Penumbra Theater and St. Paul Conservatory. This is her eighth year as a Lava Roots dancer and a member of the Prince Dance Company on the island of Hawaii for the last several years performing, choreographing collaboratively, and teaching. She currently teaches at Kona Dance and Performing Arts, the Hub in Hawi, Donkey Mill's Fall and Summer Programs, and is an emerging artist with Hawaii State Foundation of Arts and Culture. This is her second season with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival as choreographer and dance educator. She is thrilled to return for yet another fabulous summer season.



## **JENNIFER MCGREGOR** — Vocal Faculty

Jennifer McGregor graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium Opera School and spent three years in music theater performing leading roles in *The Sound of Music*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Cabaret*, *The Venetian Twins* and *Candide*. She began her operatic career as one of Richard Bonyngé's protégés, singing Ophelia to Sherill Milne's Hamlet. Her *Lucia di Lammermoor* was the

first to be sung in Australia after Dame Joan Sutherland, with whom she worked in *Die Fledermaus* and *Alcina*. Her extensive repertoire includes: The Queen of the Night, Adele, Sophie, Musetta, Marie (*La fille du regiment*), Leila, Lulu, Gilda, Cleopatra, Philine, Violetta, Oscar, Lakme, the four heroines in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Juliette, Nedda, and *Die Lustige Witwe*. She also has an extensive concert repertoire and has worked with conductors such as Richard Bonyngé, Simone Young, Charles Mackerras, and Edo de Waart.

# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **MAIKA'I NASH** — Vocal Coach

Native Hawaiian pianist and vocal coach, Maika'i Nash, returned home to Hawai'i in 2017 to accept the Head of Music and Director of the Orvis Opera Studio Program positions at the Hawai'i Opera Theatre. In his 20 year absence, Maika'i lived abroad, studying at McGill University in Montréal, at the Schubert Institute of Lieder in Vienna, the Centre for Operatic Studies in Sulmona, Italy, and privately in Paris. He spent the bulk of his career in Toronto and Montréal, working for a number of Canadian opera companies, McGill University, the University of Toronto, Western University, the Glenn Gould School, and the Royal Conservatory of Music. Always a voracious adventurer, he also spent 2.5 years in Bogotá, Colombia, working as a vocal coach, répétiteur, and pianist throughout the Colombian capital, and in the other major Colombian cities. Now firmly reestablished in Honolulu, Maika'i launched the new performing arts, non-profit group, HI Arts Lab, a company creating experiential moments in music across multiple art forms. The company launched in 2019 to rave reviews and a well attended 3-night run at the Entrepreneur's Sandbox in Honolulu's art district, Kaka'ako and produced an additional 6 experiences throughout the 2019-2020 season to sold-out audiences. Maika'i has performed in a number of renowned masterclass series with international artists that include: Christine Goerke, Barbara Bonney, Elly Ameling, Joan Dornemann, Julius Drake, Edith Wiens, Cynthia Hoffman, Helmut Deutsch, Rudolf Jansen, Robert Holl, Wendy Nielsen, Laura Claycomb & Denise Massé, among others. Growing up in Hawaii, Maika'i studied with Ernest Chang and made his solo debut with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra when he was 11. As an operatic vocal coach, Maika'i has worked with a number of opera companies throughout Canada, Colombia, and the United States. He has also been engaged as the official collaborative pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions for a number of years and has also collaborated and recorded with renowned singers such as Richard Margison, Quinn Kelsey, Audrey Luna, Barry Banks, Mark Doss, Leslie-Ann Bradley & Martha Senn. Maika'i is currently the official pianist for Disney Entertainment for the State of Hawai'i and works with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, Manoa Valley Theatre, Diamond Head Theatre, the I'm a Bright Kid Foundation, Gridiron, and is a vocal coach and collaborator with La Sorellanza, a community women's choir in Honolulu.



## **ANGEL PRINCE** — Choreographer, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Angel Prince is at her core, a storyteller. Drawing on a life-long interest in human nature and culture, she creates vibrant theatrical realms using the multi-media system of dance. Interdisciplinary in nature, her artistic practice, scholarship, and teaching are situated at the intersection of performance practice and social and environmental issues. She founded Prince Dance Institute in 2004 and Prince Dance Company, a non-profit contemporary dance organization, in 2007 and has choreographed, directed, and performed over 25 original evening-length works that push thematic boundaries, requiring her audiences to be inspired and challenged. Her creative ideas are rooted in her Hawaii home but are relevant to the world. She has challenged audiences from as close as Hawaii and as far away as New York City and Buenos Aires to think about humanity's place in this world and our relationship and responsibility to ourselves, each other, and our environment. At the end of 2020, one of the deadliest years in modern American history, her company produced a theatrical dance production entitled *The Turning Point, a Journey Through Grief*, featuring local performers including HPAF's very own, Beth Dunnington. Most recently the company performed *My Empty Body Is Full of Stars* at the Kahilu Theatre and will be taking this show on a national tour in 2023/24.

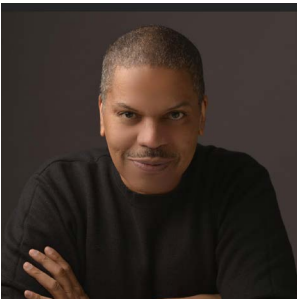
# FACULTY ARTISTS



## **LAHELA SPENCER** — Hawaiian Studies Faculty

Lahela Spencer was born and raised in Ke‘ei, Kona on the island of Hawai‘i. Lahela has been involved in Hula for the majority of her life and through the cultural practice of Hula, knowledge and tradition is passed on. Cultural knowledge, connection to place, the art of lei making, the knowledge of plants and the environment in which we share enhanced her skills and developed a passion for her culture. Her commitment to hula has culminated to the formal right of ‘ūniki as a Kumu Hula under Kumu Hula Ulalia Ka‘ai Berman.

Lahela is the Kumu Hula of Kaleiokaulupalai, based in Waimea, Hawai‘i. Along with being in the hospitality industry for over 12 years, she has spent 20 years as a professional entertainer in Hawai‘i and has been fortunate to travel the world in this profession. Kumu Lahela currently serves as a culture specialist, educator, and is a member of Leo Kāhoa Steering committee for Huamakāhikina.



## **LEE SUMMERS** — Stage Director, *Hair*

Lee Summers is thrilled to join the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival family. Summers won the 2018 AUDELCO award for “Best Director of a Musical” for *On Kentucky Avenue* and has directed musicals for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT); the New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF) along with several New York and regional theatres, including the Milwaukee Repertory, Urban Stages, The Cell Theatre, New World Stages, Aaron Davis Hall, Flushing Town Hall, and many others. Most recently, Summers directed short films for

Molloy college, while in 2020-2021, he served as guest artist director/conceiver of an original virtual revue for NYU’s Steinhardt Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions. Lee Summers trained as an actor at HBCU, Tennessee State University, performing leading roles in classic works ranging from Molière, to Ibsen, to Tennessee Williams and more and directed his first play, *Clara’s Ole Man* by Ed Bullins. Since then, Summers has worked in major American repertory theatres and performed numerous roles for daytime and primetime TV, including, “Blue Bloods,” “Boardwalk Empire,” “New York Undercover,” “Law and Order” and in films such as “Malcolm X” directed by Spike Lee, and finally admits he landed on the cutting room floor of “Head of State,” starring and directed by Chris Rock. Summers made his Broadway debut in the original *Dreamgirls*—and for which he later reprised his role in the *Dreamgirls* 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, alongside Audra McDonald, Billy Porter, Heather Headley, Adriane Lenox and other Broadway notables. Summers has also appeared in numerous Off-Broadway productions, including *On Kentucky Avenue*, in which, self-directed, he was nominated for the 2018 AUDELCO award for “Best Supporting Actor.” Summers has also toured the U.S. and Europe and has also performed at Carnegie Hall. As an educator, Summers presently serves as an Adjunct Instructor of acting for singers at NYU’s Steinhardt Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions. Other teaching positions include Motlow College; Lehman College; New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts’ Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program - and as guest lecturer at Tennessee State University; John Jay College; Marymount College and others. During 2020, Summers virtually taught libretto-writing for Amas Musical Theatre (where he earned his Equity card decades ago) and remains adjunct faculty for SUNY Empire State College as a prior-learning essay evaluator. Summers earned his MFA from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, his BA from SUNY Empire State College and he is a proud alum of Tennessee State University; Member: AEA, SAG/AFTRA, SDC, DG. [Leesummersshows.com](http://Leesummersshows.com).



# FACULTY ARTISTS



**PAULINA VILLARREAL** — Vocal Faculty | Director, Young Singer Program | Director, Lifelong Singer Program

Mexican mezzo-soprano Paulina Villarreal is a prominent recitalist, cabaret, operatic, and musical theatre singer around the United States and Mexico. A graduate of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Dr. Villarreal has been a soloist and resident artist in important companies and orchestras around the United States like Opera Saratoga, Cincinnati opera, Opera Fusion: New Works, the prestigious Tanglewood Music Center, the Boston Pops (Boston, MA), Opera Memphis, Opera Steamboat, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, Appalachian Symphony Orchestra and the Decatur Millikin Symphony Orchestra. In the entrepreneurship and administrative world, Dr. Villarreal is the founder and artistic director of the annual concert series “Cantos para Hermanar al Mundo”, devoted to the promotion of classical vocal genres hosted in Northern Mexico. She is currently a professor of voice at the University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, and the Young Singer Program Director at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, a prestigious summer training program in the United States. Trained as a classical vocalist, Villarreal is now in demand for her singing versatility in musical theatre, and commercial music genres. An advocate of new music and crossover works, she has closely collaborated with contemporary American composers like William Bolcom, Laura Kaminsky, Ricky Ian Gordon and Derek Bremel, and recognized by important foundations like the Kurt Weill Foundation in New York, and the Comic Opera Guild in Michigan for performing a wide variety of vocal genres. Recent performance credits and career highlights include the world premiere of *Mango Suite* with the Princeton Symphony, *Simply Sondheim: Stephen Sondheim’s 85th Birthday Celebration* with the Boston POPS, *Sondheim vs Webber* with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, *Macy’s ArtWave Sampler* with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, *Alma de España* with Cincinnati Song Initiative, featured performances with the Wagner Society of Cincinnati, HPAF’s *Hollywood Hits* season opener at the Big Island of Hawaii, a tour of *William Bolcom’s Complete Cabaret Songs* (Die Neue Galerie, NYC; National Women Museum of Arts, Washington DC, Cohen Studio Theater, Cincinnati) and multiple recitals promoting her extensive research on Mexican composer Maria Grever.

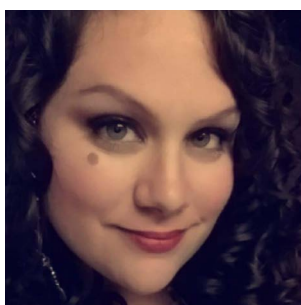
# PRODUCTION TEAM



## **BRIAN RUSSEL CAREY** — Videographer

Brian Russell Carey is a videographer, actor, and musician originally from Utah, now living in NYC. His production company BRC Creative provides full service video and music production and consultation. Select clients include Chickenshed New York, Hysterical Women Film, Playbill, and numerous Broadway actors as well as Tony and Grammy nominees. He frequently collaborates with his husband, musical theatre writer Joey Contreras. As an actor he has appeared Off-Broadway in *Red Roses*, *Green Gold* the Grateful Dead Musical and regionally at Ivoryton Playhouse, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre,

Actors Theatre Louisville, Oregon Cabaret Theatre and more. @brianrcarey, @brc.creative



## **JESSICA EDMONDSON** — Production Intern

Jessica Edmondson is excited to be returning to HPAF as a Production Intern! She joined HPAF for the 2019 season and enjoyed her time working on scenic paintings, prop fabrication, and other various tasks. She has been working on a variety of shows since her days as a student at Highland Community College (2009- 2011), where she earned an Associate of Arts Degree. During her time there, she played the roles of Glinda in *The Wiz*, and Erzulie in *Once On This Island*, for which she earned an Award for Distinguished Achievement from The Kennedy Center. Ms. Edmondson sang in the

chorus and worked as a stagehand for Wichita Grand Opera's productions of *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, (2010) and *Il Trovatore* (2011). She also worked as a prop fabricator, stagehand, and the Artistic Director's Assistant for their productions of *Otello* (2012), *Pirates of Penzance*, *Rigoletto*, and *La Boheme* (2016). She looks forward to the opportunity to return, continue learning, and doing what she is passionate about!



## **CASSIE GOLDBACH** — Director of Production | Chair, Stage Management Fellowship Program

Cassie Goldbach is a stage manager, tour manager and production manager who specializes in music driven performance. She has toured internationally with Blue Man Group's *How to Be A Megastar Tour*, *STOMP!*, Mannheim Steamroller, Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra, Donny & Marie Osmond, Tape Face, the 1<sup>st</sup> National Tour of *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, Live!*, *The Clairvoyants*, *A Nat King Cole Christmas*, *The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron*, *An Evening with C.S. Lewis*, countertenor Phillippe

Jaroussky and Ronald McDonald (yes, that Ronald McDonald). National Credits include work with New World Stages (NYC), Town Hall (NYC), Pershing Signature Center (NYC), Barrow Street Theater (NYC), Columbus Symphony, Cleveland Opera Theatre, Broadway in Chicago, Opera Per Tutti, Oberlin Opera Theater, the Playhouse at Westport, Playhouse Square, New City Music, Inlet Dance Theater and Caesar's Palace. As a co-owner of Kozbach Creatives, a boutique company which specializes in production solutions for new and unique performances and venues, she has also produced events around the world, including Icastica Arezzo (*Orfeo*), Teatro Signorelli (*Don Giovanni*, *La Rondine*, *La Boheme*), Theater Ninjas (*Aphrodisiac*), Cleveland Museum of Art (*The Excavation*) NAMT (*Meet John Doe*), Borderlight Festival (*Doug is a D-bag*), Triple Door Seattle (*The Dirty, Sexy Chocolate Show*), Casino Lisboa, *Mozart: A Rock Opera*, The Columbus Zoo and Journey Projects (*Unbeatable: A New Musical*). She currently holds Production & Stage Management residencies with Cleveland Institute of Music Opera Theater and the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Cassie is based in Cleveland, OH.

# PRODUCTION TEAM



## **MICHELLE HARTMAN** — **Costume Designer**

Costume designer, Michelle Hartman, is a local business owner from the Hamakua Coast. She has a unique vision and aesthetic, cultivated through her love of combining art and fashion. Driven by upcycling, her creations are elegant, original, and absolutely unique. Michelle has costumed shows for the Kahilu Theatre, Prince Dance Institute, and the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival.



## **VAL KOZLENKO** — **Assistant Technical Director | Projection Tech**

Val Kozlenko is a Cleveland based artist, craftsman, and performer. He has worked with Cleveland Opera Theater, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, Emery Entertainment, CNN, Cleveland Cavaliers Cheer Squad, Machine Gun Kelly, Nike, Oberlin in Italy, IBG Design, Karamu House, Cleveland Public Theatre, Theater Ninjas/Maelstrom Collaborative Arts, Playhouse Square, Beck Center. 2CG.



## **MATT MCCARREN** — **Technical Director | Lighting Designer**

Matthew is a freelance scenographer and technical director specializing in designs for black box, thrust and found spaces. Matthew currently serves as the Resident Scenic Designer and Technical Director for Cleveland Opera Theatre, and as the Scene Shop Supervisor and teaching artist for Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, WA. Regional Credits include Thingamajig Theatre Co., The Crook Theatre Co., Parallel 45 Theatre Co., Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Carrickmacross Productions, Evolution Theatre Co. Mile Square Theatre, Actors Episcopal Guild NYC, Helen Mills Theatre NYC, 59E59 NYC, Cleveland Opera Theatre and as the technical director and resident scenographer for the Oberlin in Italy opera program based in Arezzo, Italy. International credits include the 2007 Toronto Fringe Festival, the 2007 Prague Quadrennial, in Prague, CZ. and in Arezzo and Cortona, Italy at the ICASTICA Summer Arts Festival (2013-2016). Faculty appointments include The University of Wyoming, Fort Lewis College, Durango, Co. and Interlochen Center for the Arts. Matthew holds an MFA in Design with an emphasis in Czech/Eastern European design from the Ohio State University and has studied in the Czech Republic with scenographers Petr Matsek and Jaroslav Malina.

# PRODUCTION TEAM



## **BRITTANY MERENDA** — Projection Designer

Award winning projection designer Brittany Merenda has been thrilling and stunning audiences with her groundbreaking designs since her debut in 2010, where she won the Barbizon Award at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Specializing in projection mapping on non-traditional surfaces, Brittany has become the resident projection designer for Parallel 45 Theatre Company, which produces a broad repertoire consisting of innovative new works, reinvented classics, and imaginative adaptations. In 2018, Brittany made her Hawaii Performing Arts Music Festival debut with *Alcina*, *Little Women* and *Sweeney Todd*. Recent opera credits include Verdi's *Macbeth* with Opera Tampa, *Tosca* for Opera Grand Rapids, *Carmen* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Lakes Area Music Festival, *Madame Butterfly* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* for Cleveland Opera Theatre, *Dialogue of the Carmelites* with the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, and *The Marriage of Figaro* with the University of Tennessee Opera Theatre. Brittany has also designed *Pirates of Penzance* for the Interlochen Arts Academy Opera and the Traverse Symphony Orchestra. Upcoming productions include *The Newsies* for The Rose Theatre in Omaha, and *The Magic Flute* for Lakes Area Music Festival. As the resident projection designer for Parallel 45 Theatre in Michigan, Brittany has designed *Mr. Burns*, *Alice in Wonderland* (2017 Wilde Award Best Play Nominee), *A Christmas Carol in Prose*, *Streetcar*, *Medea*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Cyrano*, *The Oz Project*, *R&J* and *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan*. Recent theatre credits include productions of *Van Gogh and Me*, *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *A Wrinkle in Time* for the Rose Theatre in Omaha. Brittany is based in Traverse City, Michigan and received her Masters of Arts in Digital Arts and Sciences from the University of Florida.

# ORCHESTRA



## **ANNA CALLNER PARE — Cello**

Anna Callner Pare began her cello journey through her public middle school music program in her hometown of Seattle, Washington. She holds a double B. A. from Bard College (NY) in Cello Performance and Russian Literature and a Master of Music degree in Cello Performance from Florida International University (FL) where she served as a graduate assistant to the Miami String Quartet. Performances in genres ranging from rock to classical music have led Anna and her cello to venues across the U.S., South America, Europe and Asia. In 2015, after a decade of teaching and performing in New York City, Anna relocated to Hawai'i where she now resides with her husband and son, and continues to perform and teach both classical and non-classical music. Anna is a member of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, Early Music Hawaii, and the Sovereign Strings Band as well as the Kai String Quartet. Notable performances include the 2016 Miss Aloha Hula competition at the Merrie Monarch Festival, Lantern Floating Hawai'i's Memorial Day 2017, Kumu Hula Keali'i Reichel's Kūkahi 2018, performing live onstage with rap phenom Eminem, and presenting her original solo compositions for the Moth MainStage. Anna composes and performs music for the Species Unite Podcast, a podcast highlighting the stories of those cultivating a more compassionate world by ending animal suffering and injustice; a fight near and dear to Anna's heart. Anna is also a dedicated music educator, running a string orchestra program at Ka'ōhāo Elementary School, coaching chamber music at Punahou School and maintaining a private cello studio. Anna is continuously humbled and inspired by music's powerful ability to bridge and connect time, place, and culture. [www.annacallnerpare.com](http://www.annacallnerpare.com).



## **SHARON CANNON — Percussion**

Sharon Cannon graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance in Percussion. She has studied with principal percussionists from the Philadelphia Orchestra, Pennsylvania Ballet, Relache and the Philly Pops. In 1989 health issues brought Sharon to Hawaii, where she has since made her home for the last 33+ years. Sharon performs with Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra, Aloha Performing Arts Company, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, the Hawaii County Band and the Kona Choral Society. Sharon also spends her days teaching private lessons in percussion and music theory. Sharon gives back to her community by donating her time to Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra, a non-profit orchestra here on Hawaii Island serving on the board as both the Treasurer and the Education Chair. Sharon has been the Education Chair of the Youth Education program since 2016. Her Education team brings music appreciation and master classes to students in our local public and charter schools to assist underserved school music programs. These programs are responsible for bringing live classical and symphonic music to many of our students here on Hawaii Island. Sharon enjoys swimming in the Ocean, sharing time with her partner, enjoying great entertainment, being in nature, solving crossword puzzles and watching our beautiful Kona sunsets. Her mission in life is to preserve the integrity and experience of live music. Sharon is happiest when sharing the wonderful gift that Music brings with all kinds of people. She is eternally grateful for how Music magically has the power and tendency to bring people together.

# ORCHESTRA



## **DARIA D'ANDREA — Viola**

Violist Daria D'andrea performs with both historical instrument and modern ensembles, and enjoys veering across those stylistic borders. She is a member of the California Symphony, Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera and plays with the San Francisco Opera Center Orchestra. As a baroque specialist on violin and viola, Daria performs with period instrument ensembles including the American Bach Soloists and Philharmonia Baroque. While living and studying in England for a year, Daria toured Europe extensively with the European Baroque Orchestra. For many years she was a member of the Women's Philharmonic and she remains a strong advocate for women composers of all eras. Daria is a member of the Porch Quartet, formed in San Francisco during the pandemic. As an educator she is Director of Chamber Ensembles at University of San Francisco and has taught violin and viola at USF since 2001. She also teaches violin and viola privately at the SF Waldorf Schools. As a composer, Daria created music for the USF production of Twelfth Night and premiered her work for viola and soundscape, Oceans 2, at the inaugural Barbados International Film Festival. Daria studied viola in Oxford, England with noted pedagogue Kato Havas, and is an alumna of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Reed College.



## **DELPHINA DORRANCE — Electric Bass**

Delphina Dorrance, born Leigh Delphina Miller in 1971 near Annapolis, Maryland, received a B.A in classical string bass and dance from Ithaca College New York in 1994 and has been performing on the upright bass on Hawaii Island since arriving in 1998. She is principal bassist of the Kamuela Philharmonic and Kona Music Society since 1999 and a bassist with Maui Pops Orchestra and Maui Chamber Orchestra since 2015. Delphina's bass performances also include multiple musical theatre shows at the Aloha and Kahilu Theaters since 1999, with the Hawaii Island Jazz quartet Dolphin Dance from 2001-2006, the Bluegrass/ Americana band Pau Hana Pickers since 2012, member of recently formed Blue Dragon Jazz Trio, new member of Uncle Charlie rock band, a singer/ songwriter as of May 2020 and a music teacher (thanks to her 3 amazing kids) with the Ohana Homeschool Cooperative since 2009. She is co-founder and artistic director of Blue Dragon Tavern & Cosmic Musiquarium and co-founder and CVO of 1Heart HUB, Centers for Food, Arts, Culture & Ecology, dedicated to supporting the health and wellness of people and planet by developing places and programs for "all ages, all cultures" to *Feed Your Soul!*

# ORCHESTRA



## **NORM FOSTER — Clarinet**

Since moving to Hawaii in 1985 to play in the Honolulu Symphony – now the Hawaii Symphony – Norm Foster has been active as an orchestral musician, chamber music artist, jazz clarinetist and music educator. Mr. Foster received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Illinois in 1979 and Master of Music degree from Michigan State University in 1983. He played Second/E-flat Clarinet with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for three seasons from 1981 – 1983 and joined the Honolulu Symphony in 1985 as Second/E-flat Clarinetist. He has also played Acting Associate Principal for six seasons, and additionally plays bass clarinet, basset horn, and saxophone. Mr. Foster is a founding member and Director of the Red-Hot Lava Chamber Music Festival, presenting 2-week long festivals from 1998 to 2008 and has performed in numerous chamber music concerts with visiting artists. Mr. Foster has been a member of the clarinet faculty at the Aspen Music Festival teaching E-Flat clarinet and playing in the Festival Orchestra in 1990. He also participated in HPAF 2019 on clarinet and saxophone. In addition to classical music, Mr. Foster enjoys other styles such as jazz, pop and ethnic music. He appears regularly with Gypsy 808 and 7@7 Wednesdays with his wife Ruth Shiroma Foster. He also plays in the klezmer band SHERELE and the Balkan and Middle Eastern music group, Island Oasis Ensemble. As a pianist, he mostly composes piano rags.



## **JASON GAMER — Trumpet**

(B.Mus. Curtis Institute of Music; M.Mus, DMA, USC Thornton School of Music) is a music director, trumpet player, and educator, and he is grateful to return to HPAF for his 10th season as a faculty artist. Gamer has performed in ensembles including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestra Santa Monica, Moshav, Distant Cousins, Jason Lee Bruns Jazz Collective, Orchestre Surreal, Kammersinfonie Bremen, the legendary punk rock band Violent Femmes, and on recordings and soundtracks for television and film. Formerly an assistant professor at Utah State University and a lecturer at California State University Dominguez Hills, he is currently the music director at Vistamar School. He has written several compositions and improvises in a variety of genres. His original music was featured in the award-winning documentary *The Other Dream Team*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2012. Gamer leads many ensembles and creative projects, including serving as a music director at Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. For 11 years, he was music director and conductor of the Wild Ginger Philharmonic, which he co-founded. Recently he served as music director for full-scale productions of *Chicago*, *Mamma Mia!*, the musical, *Dogfight*, and *Fun Home*. He is a recipient of the Founder's Award for Humanity in the Arts from ICAP, the International Committee of Artists for Peace.

# ORCHESTRA



## **LAUREN HOLT — Violin**

Lauren began playing violin at the age of two. She is a graduate of the Preucil School of Music in Iowa City, Iowa and studied under Kimberly Meier-Sims and Christie Felsing. Lauren attended numerous summer camps and festivals throughout the years including Interlochen Arts Camp, ASI Steven's Point, Ottawa Suzuki Institute Mid-Southwest, Sound Encounters, the David Einfeldt Chamber Music Seminar, and the Hawaii Performing Arts

Festival. She graduated magna cum laude from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, with degrees in Music Education and Violin Performance. Lauren went on to pursue her Master's in Music in Violin Performance with an emphasis in Suzuki Pedagogy at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Her orchestral experience includes performing with the Preucil School String Orchestra, the Iowa All-State Orchestra, Ottumwa Symphony Orchestra, Xavier Chamber Orchestra, SIUE Symphony Orchestra, Hawaii Pacific University, Maui Chamber Orchestra, and the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. She has given recitals in Ireland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria, performed on public television and on stage with the likes of Rod Steward, Paula Fuga, Jack Johnson, and Eminem. Lauren currently resides in Honolulu, Hawaii and enjoys teaching violin and chamber music at Punahou School.



## **BARBARA LARONGA — Trumpet**

Barbara Laronga is a trumpet player, composer, producer, and educator who lives in Los Angeles. She has her MM from Manhattan School of Music in Jazz Trumpet Performance, and her BM from UMASS - Lowell in Music Business. She has performed around the world in notable venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Hollywood Bowl, and The Montreal Jazz Festival.

She has performed with music legends Aretha Franklin, Dave Brubeck, and Mark Wahlberg. She has recorded for television, film, and video games including The Tonight Show, Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, RVBY, and many others. She is a composer and songwriter with a home studio, and teaches a plethora of college music classes and ensembles. As a jazz recording artist, she debuted her solo album, *Love Never Dies*, about September 11, 2001. She is a member of The DIVA Jazz Orchestra, and leads her own New Orleans style band, "The Bayou Bump" [www.bayoubump.band](http://www.bayoubump.band). You can learn more about Barbara Laronga at [www.barbaralaronga.com](http://www.barbaralaronga.com).



# ORCHESTRA



## **CARLO ANDREA MALANIMA — Viola**

Dr. Malanima has been a professional musician for over 25 years playing in many world's renowned musical institutions and orchestras such as: Youth European Community Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne (Switzerland), Orchestra della Radio Televisione della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano (Switzerland), Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (Florence -Italy), Orchestra della Toscana (Florence - Italy), Orchestra Sinfonica "Haydn" di Bolzano e Trento (Bozen - Sud Tirol - Italy), Orchestra Sinfonica della RAI TV di Roma (Rome - Italy), Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (Rome - Italy), Orchestra dell' Arena of Verona (Verona Italy), Orchestra del Teatro Petruzzelli (Bari - Italy), Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice (Genova Italy) Dr. Malanima holds a life term position at Teatro Carlo Felice Orchestra where he also plays assistant principal viola. He has also served as Principal Viola in the orchestras of the Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago (Lucca - Italy), the Mascagni Festival (Livorno - Italy), Verdi Festival (Parma - Italy), Crested Butte Music Festival Orchestra (Colorado - USA), The Juilliard Orchestra (1992). As a Chamber musician he has been one of the founding members of the Quartetto d'archi Modigliani with whom he has produced many recordings and concerts. His solo recordings in contemporary music by composer Stefano Giannotti for the deutschland Radio have won the international Karl-Sczuka- Preis in 2003. Dr. Malanima earned a National DOCTORAL DIPLOMA from the Italian Conservatory and the Advanced Certificate in Music Performance from the Juilliard School in New York where he studied as a Scholarship Scholar. Dr. Malanima has studied with the following teachers : Giusto Cappone, Margaret Pardee, William Lincer, Karen Tuttle, Yurii Bashmet, The Juilliard String Quartet. He has attended at summer classes in Meadowmount Summer String Festival, Tanglewood Orchestra Music Festival, Corsi di Alto Perfezionamento Accademia Chigiana Siena. During his orchestra career Dr. Malanima has performed in some of the major concert halls throughout the world with the most acclaimed soloists and conductors such as: Abbado, Muti , Metha, Chailly, Gatti, Thielemann, Luisi, Maazel, Dudamel etc.



## **ANNA MARSH — Bassoon**

Anna Marsh, bassoon and saxophone, is a multi-instrumentalist fluent in Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and Modern styles. Originally from Tacoma, WA, Anna holds a doctorate of music in historical performance from Indiana University and has appeared worldwide with Opera Lafayette, Tempesta di Mare, Folger Consort, Musica Angelica, Tafelmusik, Pacific Musicworks, Atlanta Baroque among others. She has taught privately & at festivals at the Eastman School of Music, Los Angeles Music and Art School, Amherst Early Music, San Francisco Early Music Society & Western Double Reed Workshops. She also has been heard on dozens of recordings & on Performance Today, Harmonia, CBC radio & recorded for Chandos, Analekta, Centaur, Naxos, the Super Bowl, Avie, and Musica Omnia's Grammy nominated album, Handel's Israel in Egypt.  
[www.annamarshmusic.com](http://www.annamarshmusic.com)

# ORCHESTRA



## **SUE MCGINN — Flute, Piccolo**

Susan McGinn lives in Honolulu and is the principal flutist of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. She also held the same position in the Canton, (Ohio) Symphony, Gruppo Genovese di Musica Antica (Genova, Italy), Britt Festival (Oregon), Crested Butte Festival (Colorado), Mascagni Festival (Toscana, Italy), and the Skaneateles Festival (New York). Sue has also served as a teacher and clinician at many schools and universities, including the University Of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University. She got her education at the University of Michigan, University of Illinois, Indiana University, and at the Royal Northern College (Manchester England). Outside her playing and teaching career, Sue is starting production of two documentary films to educate people about the importance of music in their lives, and is working towards opening her own music school.



## **MAXINE NEMEROVSKI — Violin**

Spanning the centuries from baroque to pop music, Maxine has played with groups ranging from Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra to Jacksonville Symphony, to Beach Blanket Babylon, to Led Zeppelin. She has performed classically across Europe and South America, played pop music in Brazil, taught violin pedagogy to violin teachers in Nicaragua, and created and performed children's concerts in Ireland, comparing Baroque music to traditional Irish music. She enjoys and thrives on playing different palates of diverse genres and interesting "off beat" projects. Maxine can be heard on many recordings including orchestral, movie soundtracks, commercials and pop.



## **GUDRUN RASCHEN — Bass**

Gudrun Raschen has extensive solo, orchestral, and chamber music experience on double bass and cello. She has given concerts in the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Bolivia, Poland, Finland, Italy, Germany, Vietnam, South Africa, and Namibia. She has taught and performed at the Pan American Music Festival in South Texas, the International Chamber Music Festival in South Africa, the International Bass Convention in Poland, Oficina de Música in Curitiba, Brazil, the International Chamber Music Festival in Positano, Italy, the Arts Festival Autumn Melodies in Vietnam, and at the Performing Arts Festival in Hawaii. In addition, Gudrun helped establish the Mittenwald International Double Bass Masterclasses in Germany. Raschen has performed with Cape Town Philharmonic, Natal Philharmonic, Fort Worth, Richardson, Wichita Falls and Miami Symphony, Dallas, and Texas Chamber Orchestras and in early music concerts with the American Baroque Opera, Denton Bach Society, the Orchestra of New Spain, Texas Camerata, Fantasmi, Fleurs de Lys, and Ensemble VIII. She has toured these ensembles to Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, and Vietnam. Raschen teaches Double Bass at the University of North Texas. Her students have won the *International Society of Bassists Solo Competition*, the *American String Teachers Competition* (both Junior and Senior levels,) the *Eisenmann International Concerto Competition*, *Louisiana Bass Festival Solo/Orchestral competitions*, the *Denton Bach Society Solo Competition*, and second prize at the *Sphinx*, third prize *Prix Orford Musique* competitions and placed in the top three at *Dallas*, and *Fort Worth Symphony and GDYO Concerto competitions*.

# ORCHESTRA



## **KATE RIETMAN — Cello**

Katie Rietman has performed as a cellist on over 60 CD recordings and numerous concerts and radio broadcasts with notable baroque, classical, and romantic period instrument ensembles worldwide. Her performing career has taken her to 21 countries in Europe, North America, New Zealand, the Carribean, and South America. She is a prizewinner in the Bonporti competition (Rovereto, Italy) and a semi-finalist in the Van Wassenaer competition (Den Haag, Netherlands). Katie studied baroque cello at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in

Amsterdam and subsequently lived in Cologne, Germany for ten years, performing with countless European early music groups. Currently living in Santa Fe, Katie Rietman has been the principal cellist of many New York period instrument ensembles, including the Grammy-nominated Trinity Wall Street Baroque Orchestra, where she was continuo cellist for the complete cycle of the Bach Cantatas, the Clarion Society, and with the St. Thomas Boys' Choir. She is also principal cellist of Aradia (Toronto). Katie Rietman is particularly known for her continuo playing and command of several languages, and her collaboration with singers in baroque opera, oratorio, and cantatas.



## **GARY ROSS — Trumpet**

Gary Ross, at home on the concert stage and at jazz venues, has a wide array of credits to his name. His dazzling playing of Baroque masterpieces and the mellow sound of his jazz improvisations have won him acclaim from audiences young and old. He performed the Bach "Brandenburg Concerto #2" and the Haydn "Trumpet Concerto" with the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra and performs regularly with the Allentown Symphony, Trenton Symphony, and the Main Street Brass Quintet. On the show stage, Mr. Ross has performed with such artists

as Liberace, Barry White, The Dupree's and Bobby Vinton. He is co-founder of Crosswinds Trio and is still performing with his trio today.



## **RACHEL SAUL SCHIFINO — Violin**

Violinist Rachel Saul Schifino performs and teaches with an enthusiastic passion for music and its life changing benefits. She has been a member of the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra since 2012 and is currently the Interim Concertmaster of the Maui Chamber Orchestra. She also performs with the Hawai'i Opera Theatre, Tucson Symphony Orchestra and Boston Philharmonic, among others. She received her Bachelor of Music from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music on full scholarship, and her Master of Music from Boston University College of

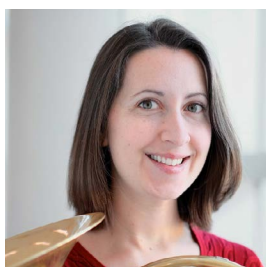
Fine Arts. She has performed for many summers throughout Europe with the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. In 2006, she was featured as a soloist with the Tucson Pops Orchestra. Throughout the last decade in Hawai'i Nei, Rachel has performed and recorded with international superstars such as Jack Johnson, Eminem, Ron Artis II, Makana, Taimane, Mike Love, Paula Fuga and more! She can be seen and heard in the 2020 Na Hoku Hanohano "Music Video of the Year." She is also a passionate educator for the youth in Hawai'i; in 2013 she founded the After-School Strings Program at Mid-Pacific Institute and worked with underprivileged youth as a Teaching Artist with Kalikolehua – El Sistema Hawai'i. She maintains an active private violin studio and teaches Chamber Music at Punahou Music School. Rachel is thrilled that this summer of 2022 will mark her third year with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.

# ORCHESTRA



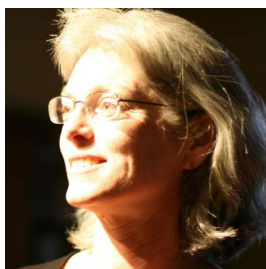
## **JORDAN SCHIFINO** — Percussion

A native of Rochester, New York, Jordan Schifino studied both percussion and piano at the Eastman School of Music with Ruth Cahn and Alla Kuznetsov respectively. He attended the Cleveland Institute of Music where he received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in Percussion and Timpani Performance with Richard Weiner and Paul Yancich. Jordan is currently the Associate Principal Percussionist of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, and in the past was serving as Acting Principal Percussion and Acting Principal Timpani. He has also performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, London Philharmonia Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony, AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz, Austria, *Wicked: The Musical*, among others. Jordan has held the position of Percussion Lecturer at the University of Hawaii Manoa since 2014. He has also worked as a Percussion and Eurhythmics Teaching Artist with Hawaii's *el Sistema* program, *Kalikolehua*. In 2021, he recorded with the Hawaii Opera Theatre for their digital chamber opera production "Hometown to the World." He has led workshops on rhythm and Eurhythmics through the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and the Hawaii Youth Symphony. This will be Jordan's second summer with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.



## **MARIA SERKIN** — Horn

Dr. Maria Serkin is the Associate Professor of Horn at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she leads a studio of some of the nation's most talented high school, undergraduate, and graduate horn students. She enjoys a multifaceted career as a performer and educator, and has held principal horn positions with the Florida Grand Opera, Palm Beach Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, Atlantic Classical Orchestra, and the Charlottesville Symphony, and was a fellow with the New World Symphony. Prior to her role at UNCSA, she taught at University of Virginia, the New World School of the Arts, and has led master classes extending from the Eastman School of Music and The Juilliard School to Sárospatak, Hungary. Throughout her career, she has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Spoleto Festival USA, National Repertory Orchestra, Pacific Music Festival, Boston Early Music Festival, and was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center. Her New York and Miami recording credits include work with The Public Theater's *Shakespeare in the Park*, *Gloria Estefan*, and *ESPN*. Recent performance highlights include extensive work the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Palm Beach Opera, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, the North Carolina Symphony, and the North Carolina Brass Band. In 2018, she was honored to premiere Kenneth Frazelle's *Hearken (Blue Ridge Airs III)* at the 50th International Horn Symposium.



## **MARY ANN SHORE** — Oboe

MaryAnn Shore lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico and performs on modern and historical oboes as well as recorder. She has performed with the New Mexico Symphony, Santa Fe Pro Musica and Las Cruces Symphony and around the country with such groups as the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, *Musica Angelica*, *Houston Bach and Ars Lyrica*, in Mexico with *Festival de Música Barocca*, and in Canada with Toronto's *Classical Music Consort*, *Early Music Vancouver* and *Rosa Barocca*.

# ORCHESTRA



## **LORI STUNTZ — Trombone**

Lori Stuntz is a freelance trombonist in the greater Los Angeles area. She has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the USC Thornton School of Music, where she also received her Master of Music. She received a Bachelor of Music degree from San Jose State University. Lori plays principal trombone with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, trombone with the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra, and frequently performs with many orchestras including the Santa Barbara Symphony, Riverside Philharmonic, and Symphony Silicon Valley. Dr. Stuntz is on the faculty at Cal Poly Pomona, Riverside City College, and Glendale Community College. As a commercial player, Lori plays lead trombone for the all female big band Maiden Voyage, 2nd for The Mike Barone Big Band and has performed with artists such as DIVA, Nancy Wilson, Jack Sheldon, Diane Schuur, Ray Anthony, Lionel Hampton, Bill Watrous, and The New York Pops. Her international performances include concerts in Germany, Japan, Austria, France, Mexico, and the Caribbean. As a recording artist she has appeared on many major motion picture soundtracks, commercials, video games, and records including Mile 22, Alice in Wonderland, Superman Returns, and X-men 3. She is the first female trombonist to record on a major motion picture soundtrack. Lori is proud to be a performing artist for Greenhoe Trombones.



## **ALICE WANG — Clarinet**

Dr. Alice Wang is the Professor of Clarinet at Youngstown State University in Ohio. In addition to being an active clinician and performer in the United States and Asia, Alice is a member of the Youngstown Symphony, the Warren Philharmonic Orchestra, the Opera Western Reserve Orchestra, and regularly performs with the Erie Philharmonic and Canton Symphony Orchestra. Alice completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Texas at Austin with Richard MacDowell. Alice completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California under Yehuda Gilad and Mitchell Lurie. She later joined the studio of Walter Boeykens of the *Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp* where she received her masters. Alice also earned an artist diploma from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm where she studied with Hermann Stefansson of Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. Alice currently lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Kurt, their occasionally ill-mannered dog Wally, a flock of hens, and repeatedly failed as a beekeeper.



## **DANIEL WEISS — Guitar**

Since moving to the Big Island more than ten years ago, Daniel has been fortunate to play guitar for performances of *Next to Normal*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Rocky Horror Show* at the Aloha Theatre in Kainaliu. Daniel is especially excited to continue his journey in musical theatre and to be a part of a production of *Hair* at the Kahilu Theatre in Kamuela. Previously in Los Angeles, he worked in post production as a digitizer and a few boutique editing houses as an assistant editor. Prior to that, he worked as a high school English and music teacher for eleven years. Daniel has a Bachelors of Music in Classical Guitar Performance and a Bachelors in Arts in English from California State University, Northridge. Currently, Daniel is grateful to work as an English teacher at Hilo High School and blessed to live with his family: Yannabah, Koa and Ipo in Hilo.

# ORCHESTRA



## **COLLEEN WHITTY — Horn**

Colleen Whitty moved to Hawaii Island in 2017 after a decade of performing with several orchestras in the Chicago area. Most notably the Lakeshore Symphony Orchestra where she performed Mahler 5 as principal. She is currently a member of the Kamuela Philharmonic, the Hawaii County Band in Hilo and Principal Horn Maui Pops. She has been a regular hire for West Hawaii Dance Theatre, Kona Choral Society, Waimea Chorus, Aloha Theatre and Kahilu Theatre.



## **PATRICK YIM — Concertmaster**

Praised for his “superb performances” (Fanfare), Honolulu-born violinist Patrick Yim (Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music [CIM]; Doctor of Musical Arts, Stony Brook University) won First Prize at the Milhaud Performance Prize Competition in 2012 and 2013. He made his solo debut with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, and has given chamber music performances with Juilliard, Emerson, St. Lawrence, Pacifica, and Ying Quartet members, as well as musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, The Cleveland Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic. He has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall and on tour across the US and Europe and at Carnegie Hall with Emerson Quartet violinists. He led Harrison’s Pipa Concerto with virtuoso Wu Man in a Hong Kong performance. He has appeared at numerous international festivals, and commissioned 29 works with performances at the Seoul Arts Center and NYC Electroacoustic Music Festival. Yim has recorded for Naxos, Navona, Ravello, and Acis. A core member of the Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, he has served on the faculty at CIM, Hong Kong Baptist University, Interlochen Center for the Arts, and Stony Brook University, and performs and presents masterclasses around the world.



## **BIN CHŌ TAN**

**BAR & GRILL**

Fairmont Orchid's Binchotan: Bar & Grill invites kama'aina residents to enjoy 10% off all food & beverage items and complimentary valet parking.

*Simply present your valid Hawai'i I.D. to your server.*

**FRIDAY THROUGH TUESDAY**  
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# ENCRANTZ VOCAL FELLOWS & GUEST ARTISTS



## **MICHELLE KAULUMAHIEHIE AMARAL** — Featured Artist, *The Spirit of Hawai'i*

Michelle Kaulumahiehie Amaral, professionally known as “Kaulu”, has graced the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel for 36 years as the Premier Hula Soloist. A former model and television host, Kaulu has also shared her love for hula in a diverse way worldwide. Her contributions and talents as an Ambassador of Aloha for the State of Hawaii has been noted and highlighted throughout her career.

The elegance of Kaulu’s hula was also captured in a multiple image best seller entitled “Hula Holoku” by world renown artist-historian Herb Kawainui Kane. She toured with the Lim Family as a soloist and became a student of Halau Na Lei ‘O Kaholoku with Na Kumu Hula Nani Lim Yap and Leialoha Amina for 25 years, before becoming a Kumu Hula. In addition, for 10 years Kaulu accompanied the late Dr. Paul Pearsall, celebrated author, and inspirational speaker, where her hula was utilized as a means of expressing Hawaiian principles of loving, working and living with aloha. Kaulu is Kumu Hula for Na Wahine Hilina’i la Iesu and teaches Hula in Switzerland and Germany.



## **ASHLEY ARMSTRONG** — Hannah After, *As One*

Praised for her “charismatic presence” (Chicago Classical Review) and “velvety voice” (Chicago Tribune), “powerhouse mezzo-soprano” Ashley Kay Armstrong’s “star power” (Picture this Post) “lights up the stage” (The Gazette) while “deliver(ing) riveting performances” (The Independent) to audiences throughout the nation. Ms. Armstrong begins her 2022/2023 season reprising Hannah After as a guest artist with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. During the 2021/2022

season, Ms. Armstrong made her debut with North Shore Music Festival as The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and returned to Opera Santa Barbara for her role debut as Hannah After in Kaminsky’s *As One*. Recent career highlights include Olga in *Eugene Onegin*, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, and Véronique in *Le docteur Miracle* with Opera Santa Barbara; Javotte in *Manon* with Opera Idaho; Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Jenny Diver in *The Threepenny Opera*, and Meg Brockie in *Brigadoon* with Cedar Rapids Opera; and Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* with Bel Cantanti Opera. Ms. Armstrong is an alumna of the Chrisman Studio Artist program at Opera Santa Barbara and the Emerging Artist program at Opera Idaho. She has been a Semi-Finalist for the American Prize in Art Song and is managed by Encompass Arts.



## **BLAYNE ASING** — Featured Artist, *The Spirit of Hawai'i*

Born and raised on the island of Oahu, Blayne Asing is a self-taught musician who first picked up the ‘ukulele and guitar at eight. Besides playing various instruments, Blayne is a prolific songwriter with a distinctive voice and a unique country/folk/island style. He has worked with and collaborated with such local legends as Brother Noland, Henry Kaponu and John Cruz. His musical work has garnered him two Na Hoku Hanohano awards including Most

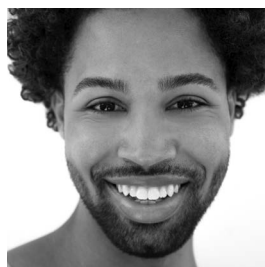
Promising Artist (2016) and Single of The Year (2017) for “Molokai On My Mind.”

# ENCRANTZ VOCAL FELLOWS & GUEST ARTISTS



## **EVAN BRAVOS** — Hannah Before, *As One*

Marked as a “young talent to watch” by the Chicago Tribune, Baritone Evan Bravos has received critical acclaim for his “lovely lyric baritone” (Opera News) in interpretations of opera, oratorio and art song repertoire. Bravos performed the role of Hannah Before in Laura Kaminsky’s groundbreaking *As One* with Opera Santa Barbara this past season. With Chicago Opera Theatre, he played El Dancaïro in *Carmen* alongside Jamie Barton and Stephanie Blythe, and “sang winningly” (Opera News) as Clay in the world premiere of Matthew Reccio and Royce Vavrek’s opera *The Puppy Episode*. Other recent roles include Cascada in *The Merry Widow* (New Philharmonic Opera); Manfred Lewin in Jake Heggie’s *Two Remain* (Chicago Fringe Opera); Maximilian in *Candide* (Ravinia Festival); George Jones in Kurt Weill’s *Street Scene* and Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (Virginia Opera); the title role in *Don Giovanni* (Hawaii Performing Arts Festival); Inman in Jennifer Higdon’s *Cold Mountain* (Music Academy of the West); and Tom Joad in the Chicago premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *The Grapes of Wrath*. He has performed with Sarasota Opera, Opera on the James, San Diego Opera, Central City Opera, and the Aspen Music Festival. With Opera Theatre of St. Louis, he created the roles of Pvt. Johnson and Sgt. Brown in the world premiere of Huang Rao’s *An American Soldier*, and in the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s “Lyric Unlimited” series, played and covered Enrique in the debut of Jose “Pepe” Martinez’s Mariachi opera *El Pasado Nunca se Termina*. Bravos has sung in concert with the Symphonies of Santa Fe, Milwaukee, Madison, and Colorado, with whom he toured Fauré’s *Requiem in Paris*, Strasbourg and Munich. An avid recitalist, Bravos has sung Patrice Michaels’ *Notorious RBG in Song*, was a 2018 Vocal Fellow at Ravinia Festival’s Steans Music Institute, and has been featured in art song initiatives, the Collaborative Arts Institute of Chicago and the Horto Music Festival in Pelion, Greece. He is currently pursuing the Doctorate of Musical Arts at Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music. Learn more about this artist at [www.evanbravos.com](http://www.evanbravos.com).



## **RAHZÉ CHEATHAM** — Hannah Before, *As One*

Baritone Rahzé Cheatham is praised as a “wonderfully sensitive” performer with “crystalline diction” and a strong foundation in music, theatre art, and dance applications. A new and contemporary classical music artist in both concert and operatic repertoire, notable roles include Hannah before (*As One*), Brennan (*Mallory*) Blues Soloist/ Street Singer (*MASS*), Betto di Signa (*Gianni Schicchi*), L’Auber- giste (*Chérubin*), Bob (*Old Maid and the Thief*), Bernardo (*West Side Story*), Sam, (*Trouble in Tahiti*); Dr. Pangloss, (*Candide*); and Figaro, (*Le nozze di Figaro*). For five years, Rahzé served as a Section Leader and soloist for the Sanctuary Choir of First and Franklin Presbyterian Church. Armed with the perspective of the intersection of mis- and underrepresented communities, Rahzé seeks to break through an otherwise homogenous music scene. In addition to performing original works, Rahzé enjoys learning and performing works from 1900-forward, by little-known and unknown composers and poets, especially artists of color and LGBTQ-identified artists. While hosting a private voice studio of beginner, intermediate, and advanced students across multiple genres, they currently maintain teaching positions at the Baltimore School for the Arts and the Baltimore School of Music, as well as a composition residency at St. David’s Episcopal Church. Rahzé holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Minor in Music Theory from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University where they studied with American baritone William Sharp.



# ENCRANTZ VOCAL FELLOWS & GUEST ARTISTS



## **MICHELLE DING** — Public Opinion, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Michelle ShanShan Ding is an opera singer and concert pianist, known for her versatility for performing in both mediums. In 2021, she won the third prize in the NATS competition in the adult category. From 2017 to 2020, she has been a fervent performer of The Greater Lansing Community Concert series.

In China she recently performed Yellow River Concerto with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra and in a solo concert at Shanghai Grand Theatre, both as a piano soloist and singing. A frequent performer in Festivals, in 2015, she performed Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in Perugia, Italy. In 2014, she was the pianist for Calarts Orchestra and New Century Players under the direction of David Rosenboom. In 2013, she attended the John Perry Summer Festival and performed at the Colburn School of Music in downtown LA. She attended the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival where she sang Octavia in the scenes of *Die Rosenklavier*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from Michigan State University in 2019, and a master's degree in Vocal Arts in 2020. She received master's degree in Piano Performance from University of Michigan with Charles Fisher fellowship in 2016 and her bachelor's degree in Piano Performance with a minor in Voice from California Institute of the Arts in 2014. Currently, she lives in Ann Arbor with her husband Frank and their daughter Alexandra, and runs her own studio offering both piano and voice lessons.



## **HĀLAU KA'EAIKAHELELANI** — Featured Artists, *The Spirit of Hawai'i*

Hālau Ka'eaikahelani (KIK), an immersion school of Hawaiian arts and culture located in South Kona, Hawaii. KIK brings people together through their shared desire to learn and live the cultural foundations of hula, community, culture and humanity. Their mission is to increase equitable access to cultural enrichment programs through the lifestyle of hula, language, music, arts,

land stewardship, and ancestral teachings. Kumu Ka'ea and Kumu Kahelani are lifetime hula dancers having had the opportunity to be traditionally trained from birth by their late mother Sally Kalala Alohikea Toko. Sally was the daughter of Moses Unauna Kuulei Toko Alohikea and Mary Ka'eamoku Kahoonei and was raised in Wainiha, Kaua'i. Sally trained her daughters in the traditional manner and as was customary, she also sent them to other kumu for additional training during their youth. Ultimately, Ka'ea and Kahelani became students of kumu Nani Lim Yap and graduates of her award winning Hālau Hula Nā Lei 'O Kaholoku. Hālau Ka'eaikahelani teaches students weekly from 12 months- 80 years young and classes internationally as well. Within the fundamental teachings of Hawaiian arts and practices are centuries of knowledge and understanding essential to the foundation of Hawaiian culture and the sustainability of the islands.

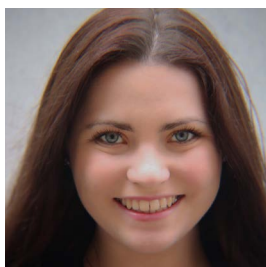
# ENCRANTZ VOCAL FELLOWS & GUEST ARTISTS



## **HĀWANE RIOSI** — Featured Artist, *The Spirit of Hawai'i*

Hāwane Rios is a Mauna Kea Protector and award winning singer/songwriter from Pu'ukapu, Waimea on the Island of Hawai'i. She was raised from an early age in the traditional art forms of chant and dance of her people which created a strong foundation for her passion of music and songwriting. Rios believes that music is a powerful catalyst for change and is moved to write and sing songs with a healing and unifying message that she hopes will carry on to the generations to come. Being of Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian), Chamorro, Taino, Portuguese, and English decent, she knows her lineages, cultural traditions, music, advocacy work, and commitment to aloha 'āina (love for the land), connects her to the world and to the collective responsibility we have to care for and protect Mother Earth. Rios has stood on the frontlines of the Protect Mauna Kea Movement and alongside her family as a petitioner in the court system in resistance to the proposed Thirty Meter Telescope for the past 12 years. Her outreach work has taken her to many places and has connected her to many different justice movements rooted in standing up and speaking up for the rights of the land and water. She continues to support the efforts of the movement through her educational outreach work with the non-profit organization, Mauna Kea Education and Awareness and through her artistry as a musician, dancer, and chanter. Kū Kia'i Mauna. Together We Rise.

# COLLABORATIVE PIANO, STAGE DIRECTING, & STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOWS



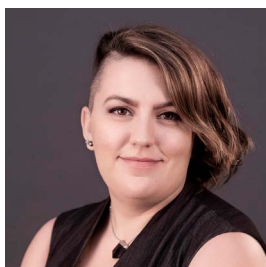
**EMMA BELEW** — Stage Manager,  
*Orpheus in the Underworld*

Emma Belew is a Stage Management Fellow for HPAF. Currently, she is working towards a degree in stage management from Western Michigan University where she recently managed productions of *The Old Man and the Old Moon*, *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Emma arrived at HPAF after spending the beginning of the summer at Utah Shakespeare Festival after serving as a production assistant on *Sweeney Todd* and *King Lear*. Previously, she worked as a venue manager at Cutting Hall in Palatine, Illinois and as part of the events team for Elegant Event Lighting in Chicago, Illinois.



**JOHN-MICAH BRASWELL** — Principal Pianist, Assistant  
Music Director, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

John-Micah Braswell is a pianist, collaborator, and vocal coach who has been working in the greater Los Angeles community since 2019. In 2021, he received a Master's of Music in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California under the instruction of Dr. Alan Smith, before which he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from Baylor University. At Baylor, John-Micah was offered the "Outstanding Senior Man in the School of Music" award, and at USC, he received the Keyboard Collaborative Arts Department Award and the Koldofsky Scholarship. Since graduation from USC, John-Micah has been in-demand as a collaborator at the University of Southern California, the University of California Los Angeles, and California State University Fullerton. He is also a piano teacher at Cornerstone Music Conservatory, the director of music at All Saints Lutheran Church, and an assistant director for the Los Angeles Zimriyah Chorale.



**MELANIE DAVIS** — Stage Manager, *As One*

Melanie joins the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival from Cleveland, Ohio. Following a BA from Cleveland State University, she worked at several regional theatres including Karamu House, America's oldest African American Theatre. She also spent years developing her skills in the historical theatres in Cleveland's Playhouse Square. Recently Melanie took her skills out on to the road with concert tours like Donny & Marie, and theatrical tours including Mars Venus Live, and Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood. Melanie takes pride in her diverse portfolio of experiences in different roles and forms of live entertainment. It is a joy to help manage spaces for fellow artists to create and inspire future audiences seeking a connection and shared experience. Melanie would like to thank her friends, loved ones, and the team behind this festival for their support. In the future Melanie hopes to continue touring and exploring the world through her career.

# COLLABORATIVE PIANO, STAGE DIRECTING, & STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOWS



**PARKER KONKLE** — Principal Pianist,  
Assistant Music Director, *As One*

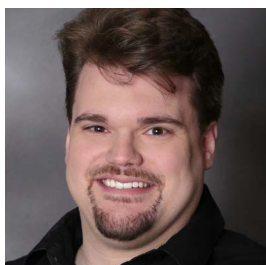
Parker Konkle is from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and recently graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with his Bachelor of Music in piano performance degree where he studied with Dr. Christopher Guzman. Parker is a highly sought after collaborative pianist in the Central Pennsylvania area, having served as pianist for the Penn State Glee Club, Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Baroque Ensemble, and many instrumentalists and vocalists. He was most recently invited to Songfest 2022 at San Francisco Conservatory and the Collaborative Piano Institute at the Louisiana State University. This fall, Parker will attend the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music to begin his MM in Collaborative Piano.



**ZOË LILLIS** — Assistant Stage Director, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Zoë is so excited to join Hawaii Performing Arts Festival as their directing fellow for *Orpheus and the Underworld*. She is a director, producer, and theatre artist living and working in New York City. At NYU Gallatin, she studied Directing and Dramatizing History, with a focus on the relationship between narrative and the process of production. She is thrilled by stories that remind us of the excitement and magic of our shared humanity. Zoë has been a part of Tisch New Theatre since 2019, and is beyond grateful for the opportunities and community offered by this incredible group of artists. Her select directing credits include: *Amélie* (TNT), *Offstage* (TNT), *Unplugged* (TNT), *Lovesong* (Gallatin Theatre Troupe), and *Love Sucks* (GTT). Assistant directing credits include the world premiere of *Yes! Reflections of Molly Bloom* (Irish Repertory Theatre) and *Legally Blonde* (TNT). Various theatre credits include work with The Huntington Theatre, the cell, Second Stage and Manhattan Theatre Club. [zoelillis.com](http://zoelillis.com)

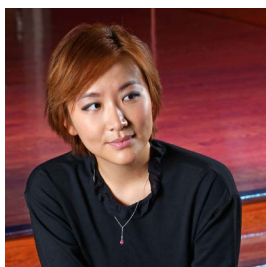
# COLLABORATIVE PIANO, STAGE DIRECTING, & STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOWS



**ROBERT PIERCE** — Assistant Stage Director & Stage Manager, *Hair*

Robert Pierce hails from northeast Ohio, where he has experience as a performer, director, stage manager, and production manager in the fields of opera and musical theater. On the production end, Robert has notably worked on acclaimed performances of *La Bohème* and *La Traviata* for Cleveland Opera

Theater, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Macbeth* for Opera Western Reserve, and the world premieres of *The Puppy Episode* at Oberlin Conservatory and Griffin Candey & Caridad Svich's *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. As a performer, he has appeared in many regional theater productions, including *The Little Mermaid*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Billy Elliot*, *Violet*, and *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, as well as productions of *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *Street Scene*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. A graduate of Otterbein University and Cleveland Institute of Music, Robert also directs and performs operatic programming for young audiences in his role as Educational Outreach Director for Opera Western Reserve, where he also serves as the resident Production Stage Manager.



**CATHY YANG** — Principal Pianist, Assistant Music Director, *Hair*

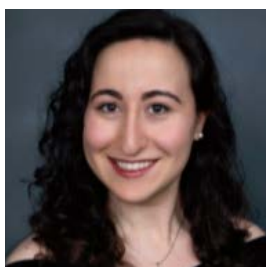
At the age of 7 Cathy Yang started her musical career with Prof. Zhaoyi Dan in China. After immigrating to Canada, she obtained the Artist Diploma (ARCT) from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. At the University of Music and Dance Cologne (Germany), she received a Masters degree in piano performance with Prof. Ilja Scheps. While in Canada, she participated and received prizes in many regional piano festivals and also in the nation-wide Canadian Music Competition. In 2006, she won two first prizes at the solo and concerto competition at Ithaca College in New York, USA. In the same year, she was invited by the Vladimir Spivakov International Foundation as one of two representatives from Canada to participate in their music festival Moscow Meets Friends. In 2010, Cathy won the third prize in her age category at the International Piano Competition Vila de Capdepera in Spain. Studying with Prof. Kevin Fitz-Gerald, Cathy is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California - Thornton School of Music.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **DYLAN AARON** — *Woof, Hair*

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Dylan Aaron recently graduated with his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University. While at Oklahoma State, he performed many roles including Curly in *Oklahoma!*, Ryan in *Theory of Relativity*, and Albert Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie*. This production marks Dylan's HPAF debut.



## **LEILA ABOU-JAOUDE** — *Marjorie, Featured Soloist, Crissy (understudy), Hair*

Leila Abou-Jaoude is a recent graduate of Princeton University, where she majored in music and minored in music theater, vocal performance, and gender and sexuality studies. Her performances include *La Calisto* (Linfea), *Cendrillon* (Maguelonne), *Godspell* ("Day by Day" Soloist), *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), and the McCarter Theatre's workshop of *The Connector*, a musical in development by Jason Robert Brown. She recently wrote an original musical about German Romantic concert pianist and composer Clara Schumann. In the fall, she plans to pursue a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance.



## **TYLER BRUNNER** — *Claude, Hair*

Tyler Brunner is an up-and-coming actor who recently graduated from New York University with his Master's Degree in Vocal Performance: Music Theatre. He most recently performed as Grey in a production of *In Pieces*, having previously performed in productions of *Storm: A Musical Revenue*, *The Good Trouble Mixtape*, etc. Post pandemic, before returning to school to receive his MM from NYU, he performed professionally in a variety of live bands scaling anything from Casinos, Corporate Events, Weddings, Festivals, Clubs, etc. Tyler is eager to continue his journey in Musical Theatre and is excited to be apart of all works that come from a place of life, spirit, and transformation.



## **AMELIA BURKLEY** — *Mary, Featured Soloist, Crissy (understudy), Hair*

Amelia Burkley is so excited to be performing as Mary/Featured Soloist and understudy for Crissy in Hawaii Performing Arts Festival's *Hair! The Musical*. Amelia graduated from Christopher Newport University with a BA in Theater (concentrating in Music/Dance), where she performed in *Die Fledermaus* (maid), *Gianni Schicchi* (Lauretta), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Isabel and understudy for Mabel), and *The 25h Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre). Her professional credits are *The Secret Garden* (chorus) and *The Tempest* (Magical Creature) with Virginia Stage Company. Most recently, she performed as Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and is thrilled to take her next step in the professional world of performing arts through Hawaii Performing Arts Festival's fabulous program!

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



**KOBE BURTON** — Mars, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Kobe Burton is in his Junior year at Biola University seeking degrees in both Vocal Performance and Music Composition with an emphasis in New Media. He has been a part of numerous productions in his area including *Little Shop of Horrors* (Newbury Park Theatre), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Biola Conservatory of Music), and *In the Heights* (Young Artists' Ensemble). He previously studied with James Wilber, a former choral director from Disney, and he currently studies with Joel Balzun, acclaimed opera singer and DMA student at the USC Thornton School of Music. He is thrilled for this opportunity as this will be his first performance in a true opera.



**SAVANNA BUTCHER** — Coco, *Second Policewoman*, Diana (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Savanna Butcher, of Jane Lew, West Virginia, is a recent graduate of West Virginia University, where she received a bachelor's degree in music education and music composition. During her time at WVU, she studied voice with Laura Knoop Very, her current voice teacher. She was a member of the auditioned chamber choir and was involved in multiple opera productions including Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and Massenet's *Cendrillon*. In 2019, she sang in a masterclass for Susan Ashbaker and conducted in a masterclass with Dr. Daniel Bara. Savanna has written and premiered a total of 10 original pieces with varying instrumentation, one of which was premiered in Vienna, Austria while attending as a member of the composer's forum in the Vienna Summer Music Festival. Savanna teaches a growing voice studio at a local music store, and she is an active staff musician at Avery United Methodist Church in Morgantown. Savanna recently performed in Dr. David Taddie's premiere of his new chamber piece, "Ghost House". In the fall, Savanna will be attending the Cleveland Institute of Music to pursue her master's degree in vocal performance.



**ELIZABETH CALANDRA** — Suzannah, *Featured Soloist*, Jeanie & Margaret Mead (understudy), *Hair*

Elizabeth Calandra is currently working towards receiving her Bachelor's degree in Theatre with a minor in dance from Oklahoma State University. She most recently played Eustazio in Handel's *Rinaldo*, and has also played Sara in *The Theory of Relativity*, Sarah Good in *The Crucible* and Alice in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Along with performing in shows throughout her time at OSU, Liz has also helped choreograph for several dance concerts and other productions. This is Liz's first time in Hawaii and is so excited for the opportunity to perform in this beautiful place!

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **RICHARD CARDILE** — Berger, *Hair*

Richie Cardile (Berger) is a graduate student at NYU Steinhardt. He is currently working toward his Master of Music in Vocal Performance: Music Theatre, studying voice with Dr. Justin John Moniz. Recent credits include: *Applause* (Ensemble) and *In Pieces* (Austyn) at NYU Steinhardt, and *Brigadoon* (Archie Beaton) at Montclair State University. In March, Richie competed and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in his category of the NATS Eastern Region

Student Auditions. Thanks to the production team and friends and family for their continued love and support! Instagram: @richie\_cardile



## **LAURA CARSKADDEN** — Jay Styx, *Orpheus* (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Laura Carskadden, mezzo soprano, pursued a career of music and opera to achieve connection between people. She travelled to Costa Rica to sing Women 2 in *Songs for a New World* by Brown and attended numerous programs including SongFest, Frost School of Music in Salzburg, MIOpera in Illinois, Boston Conservatory in Valencia, and Utah Vocal Arts Academy. Ms.

Carskadden received her B.A. in Music: Vocal Performance (2019) and M.M. in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy at Peabody (2022). She performed Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* at HPU and Juno in *Orpheus in the Underworld* at UVAA. Laura is also preparing to sing Dolcina and cover Badessa from *Suor Angelica* by Puccini with Bel Canto in Tuscany this summer. The psychology behind music interests her and she is currently exploring research surrounding gender based implicit bias in opera. She is not only an advocate for providing more treble-voice roles in general but also better women representation in the stories, which is why she loved to represent a young, strong, working “Mother” to a young girl who loves video games in *Earth to Kenzie* by Pollock at Peabody and is excited to break the mold in singing John Styx, written for baritone.



## **CHRISTIAN CASTRO** — Hud, *Hair*

Christian Castro recently graduated from the Crane School of Music and is currently a music teacher in NYC. While in undergrad he had multiple opportunities to perform in many diverse groups from collegiate a capella to Latin Ensemble. He looks forward to having more opportunities to perform live and is excited to return to the stage.



# DEVELOPING SINGERS



**KATRINA COLE** — Lolo, *First Policewoman*, Juno (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Katrina Cole is a rising fourth year student studying vocal performance at Penn State University under the tutelage of Dr. Rachel Copeland. She is also currently a private student of Ms. Katie Travis, with whom she studies musical theatre voice as well as other contemporary styles of singing. This past academic year, Ms. Cole sang in the chorus of Handel's *Messiah* with Penn State's Concert Choir, performed the role of Berta (formerly Bartolo) in Penn State Opera Theatre's production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and was recently a finalist and winner of the Encouragement Award in Penn State's *SingOut!* competition.



**JOSHUA CREDLE** — Hud, *Hair*

Joshua Credle is a senior musical theater major at Five Towns College and he looks forward to completing his collegiate experience. Joshua has entertained the FTC audience on multiple occasions with his performances in *Sweat* and *Pippin*. He had the amazing opportunity to originate the role of Sean The Kid in the developmental show *The Magical Journey of Arlekina*. He looks forward to gracing the stage as Hud once again for The Big Island community.



**COLETTE CURRY** — Leata, Featured Soloist, Jeanie (understudy), *Hair*

Colette Curry is an upcoming senior Musical Theatre major at West Virginia University and is absolutely thrilled to be making her debut at HPAF! She was previously seen in West Virginia as Joanne in *RENT*, Franny in *All This Intimacy*, and Carmen in *Sweet Charity*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this such a fun experience!



**MADELYN DEININGER** — Juno, Public Opinion (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Madelyn Deininger is a third year Vocal Performance major at Baldwin Wallace studying with Professor Nancy Maultsby. In her early studies, she has performed in the ensemble of *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, and in *Pelléas et Mélisande* as a super. This past year, she originated the role of the Stream in the new micro opera *The Stream*, composed by Michi Wiancko with a libretto by Sarah Labrie. In the fall of 2021, she sang the role of Ruggiero in BW's production of *Alcina*, and in this past spring she had the pleasure of singing Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. This summer she will be involved in the fully staged world premiere of *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, playing the role of Amelia, and will be performing Juno in HPAF's production of *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **EMILY DENSMORE** — Diana, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Emily Densmore is a student soprano from the University of Texas at Austin, studying vocal performance and Italian. She began her musical journey by performing musical theatre and is a classically trained actress through Austin's premier company ZACH Theatre. Her previous performances at UT include her solo junior recital and productions with the university's Butler Opera Center which include *Carmen* as Chorus and Micaëla study-cover as well as *L'elisir d'amore* as Chorus. Most recently she performed with Luke Housner's Summer Opera Workshop in Houston as Second Knabe in *Die Zauberflöte*. She was an invited performer for Austin Opera's Sarah and Ernest Butler Masterclass Series and collaborated with American soprano Alexandra Loutsion. She works as a nanny and loves to teach her kids new Italian phrases.



## **COLE DENTON** — Jay Styx, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Cole Denton joins us from the state of New York and is a musician who enjoys the intense feeling of theatre and performance. With his Countertenor voice, Cole has performed in many productions in musical theatre with Chazy Music Theatre Company, and The Crane Opera Ensemble with notable roles such as (Mrs. Nolan/*The Medium*, Spirit/*Dido & Aeneas*, Lucas/*The Addams Family*, Pinnochio/*Shrek the Musical*, and leading roles in the plays *You Can't Take It with You*, and *A Family Reunion to Die for*). At a young age Cole was also the boy soprano soloist for Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms with the Plattsburgh State University Orchestra in 2015. Cole studies Vocal Performance and Music Education Major at the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York: Potsdam where he studies with Professor Donald George. Since taking the stage in Beekmantown, NY where he attended High School he is thrilled to be joining us all the way in Hawaii for the Performing Arts Festival. "We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams." - Arthur O'Shaughnessy



## **DAVID DRETTWAN** — Jupiter, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

David Drettwan is a 22 year old baritone, recent graduate of Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music (in Nancy Maultsby's studio), and an incoming Masters student at Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University with Jane Dutton. Past credits include Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Melisso (*Alcina*), Trunk (*Pandora Jones*), King Arkel (*Pelléas et Mélisande*), Zuniga (*Carmen*), *La Bohème* (Chorus), *The Rake's Progress* (Chorus), Omar (Chorus). Upcoming roles: Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*).

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **SARAH DUREN** — *Crissy, Dance Captain, Hair*

Sarah Duren is currently working towards a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance/Musical Theatre at NYU Steinhardt, studying voice in the studio of Dr. Justin John Moniz. She is minoring in Dance through NYU Tisch. At NYU, she has performed in *Orpheus in the Underworld* (Diana/Dance Captain), *Zoom Speed Dating Tonight* (Dater #4- Dancer), Yesteryears concert (soloist), and Claude McKay's *America* (soloist). Sarah also recently choreographed *In Pieces* by Joey Contreras, directed by Dr. Errik Hood. Some of her other credits include *Mary Poppins* in *Mary Poppins*, and *Janet Van De Graff* in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Sarah recently competed in the NATS NYC Chapter and was awarded winner of the Marni Nixon Memorial Award and also received 2nd place in the Upper College Musical Theatre category.



## **SAMUEL FLORES** — *Mars, Jupiter (cover), Orpheus in the Underworld*

Baritone Samuel Flores is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University; Boca Raton, FL. Mr. Flores currently resides in Brooklyn, NY where he can be seen performing locally. He began working for the Metropolitan Opera as an Administrative Associate in 2018 and has participated in training programs including the New York Conservatory summer program and St. Petersburg Opera: Emerging Artist program. Roles performed include: Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Wagner in *Faust*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* and Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*.



## **DYLAN JAMES GODBEY** — *Orpheus, Orpheus in the Underworld*

Dylan James Godbey is from Stanford, KY and received a Bachelor's of Music in Voice Performance from Belmont University in Nashville, TN. Dylan will begin work on his Master's of Music in Voice Performance along with an advanced certificate in Vocal Pedagogy this Fall at New York University's Steinhardt School in New York, NY. Most recently, Dylan has appeared as Don Basilio in Alexandria Summer Night's production of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Men's Chorus in Nashville Opera's production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and multiple roles as a studio artist in the 70th season of Opera in the Ozarks. Dylan is a recent alum of the Disney College Program at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL; and has also spent the past several months working as a voice teacher to younger kids through Traveling Music Lesson-Nashville in Nashville, TN. Dylan would like to thank his family for their unconditional support, and for making opportunities like HPAF possible. Psalm 71:23.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **TRINITY GRAY** — Dionne, *Hair*

Trinity Gray graduated from West Virginia University in May 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in music performance. She has most recently performed in WVU's opera pastiche *Sincerely Yours*, where she performed works by Tom Cipullo and Otto Nicolai. In her time at WVU, she has performed works centered around German lieder along with more modern pieces by Margaret Bonds and Andre Previn. Trinity Gray will begin her Masters degree in music performance at the Peabody Institute in Fall 2022.



## **NOUR HABBASH** — Crissy, *Hair*

Nour Habbash is a Musical Theatre performer based in New York City. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance (Music Theatre) at New York University in the Steinhardt School and minoring in Peace and Conflict Studies. At NYU, she was most recently seen in *The Good Trouble Mixtape*, *Storm (A Musical Review)*, and *Cover Me (a Concert Series)*. This summer she is joining the ensemble of *If/Then* at the Gallery Players off off-Broadway Theatre in Brooklyn. Aside from Musical Theatre, Nour is a passionate songwriter. Her debut single 'Home' will be out on all streaming platforms this summer!



## **SUSANNAH HARDWICK** — Eurydice, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

British soprano Susannah Hardwick is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Opera Performance at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where she studies with Angela Gooch. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice from the Royal College of Music in London. Most recently she was due to sing the role of Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, but was unable to perform due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Other roles she has performed include Euridice in *L'Orfeo* (Royal College of Music), Clorinda (cover) in *La Cenerentola* (British Youth Opera), Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica* (Opera Lucca), Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Ensemble Orquesta) and Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* (RicNic Oxford). This summer Susannah is participating in Classic Lyric Arts, France. Susannah was a recipient of a Collingwood Finalist's Prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Bursary for Young Singers and was recently a semi-finalist in the Pasadena Vocal Competition.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



**BRIDGE HARTMAN** — Orpheus, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Tenor, Bridge Hartman is a Hawai'i based singer and songwriter. He currently resides in Hilo, working closely with Hawaii Educational Arts Repertory Theatre. With an extensive background in musical theatre, you might have seen him as Gabe in *Next to Normal*, Le Fou in *Beauty and the Beast*, or most recently, his one-man-show, *Bridge at the Palace*, a benefit for the historic downtown, Hilo Palace Theatre.



**KAITLYN HEIT** — Toto, Third Policewoman, Diana (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Katie (soprano) has made her way up to Baltimore with the hopes to build her career in the opera world. Katie most recently earned her Master's of Music in Vocal Performance at the Peabody Institute where she felt extraordinarily lucky to train in the vocal studio of Dr. Carl DuPont. She looks forward to continuing her studies at Peabody towards a Graduate Performance Diploma with Dr. DuPont's mentorship next fall. At Peabody, she portrayed roles including La Zelatrice (*Suor Angelica*), Lisbe (*Zémire et Azor*), and Velma (*Chicago*) with the Peabody Opera Scenes program as well as Mother (*Hänsel and Gretel*) with Peabody's Opera in Action. More recently, she competed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition and placed 2nd in the Chapter Auditions as well as 2nd in the Regional Auditions. Since then, she has competed on the national level and looks forward to what is to come with the competition. This summer, Katie is thrilled to travel to Hawaii's Big Island for the first time to portray Toto and 3rd Policewoman as well as cover Diana with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival's production of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*.



**ELIJAH HENDERSON** — Steve, Featured Soloist, Hud (understudy), *Hair*

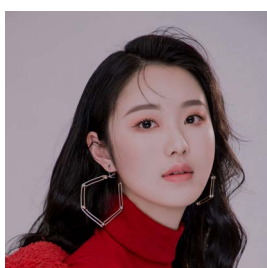
Twenty-two-year-old singer Elijah Henderson was born May 16, 2000, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and has been shaped by his community. Mr. Henderson is well versed in several skills, including being fluent in German, jazz piano, bass, and several other brass instruments. He has graduated with a bachelor's in Vocal Performance from Wingate University. He has performed Bach's B minor Mass, Requiem by Duruflé, and the Gold Standard Chorus—a barbershop choir in Charlotte. He has also toured South Africa with the Wingate Music Ambassadors under Dr. Kenney Potter's direction. He is also the principal Pianist for the 208th Army Reserve Band. In the fall of 2021, Mr. Henderson played the leading role of "the Artist Martinez" in the world premiere of the opera "Behold the Man." Currently, Mr. Henderson is working on a vast array of jazz compositions and getting his Master in Vocal Jazz Performance at North Carolina Central University. Mr. Henderson aspires to perform internationally and share his various interests in Music.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **BEN JOHNSON** — *Artisteus/Pluto, Orpheus in the Underworld*

Ben Johnson is a senior vocal performance major at the Crane School of Music from Hellertown, Pa. As a member of the Crane Opera Ensemble, Ben has been in the world premiere production of *Mayo* by Tom Cipullo, performed the Fragile Heart Duet in *Speed Dating Tonight!* by Michael Ching, the role of Charlie in Mahagonny ein songspiel by Kurt Weill, and the role of Milio in Ruggero Leoncavallo's *Zazà*. Additionally, Ben was the tenor soloist in the Mozart Mass in C minor at the Crane School of Music and premiered the role of Thomas in the new musical Program. In addition to performing, Ben is also the President of the Crane Opera Club and a Presidential Scholar studying the Orpheus myth.



## **SHUYI LI** — *Cupid, Orpheus in the Underworld*

Soprano Shuyi Li, from China, is a first-year master's student at the IU Jacobs School of Music, where she studies with Patricia Stiles. Li earned her bachelor's degree at the Eastman School of Music and Central Conservatory of Music, China. As an undergraduate, she performed the roles of Gretel from *Hänsel und Gretel* (Central Conservatory of Music Opera Center), Papagena from *Die Zauberflöte* (Beijing Concert Hall), Act II Soloist and chorus of *La Rondine* in Jacobs School of Music Opera Theater 2021- 2022 season. In Heidi Grant Murphy's Opera Workshop, she performed scenes from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* as Susanna, Haydn's *Il mondo della luna* as Flaminia. This summer, she will sing the role of Kate from *The Pirates of Penzance* with Cedar Rapids Opera, and the role of Cupid in *Orpheus In The Underworld* with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Li is the 1st Prize winner of the 2020 International Music Competition 'Salzburg' Grand Prize Virtuoso in Austria, 1st Prize winner of the 2020 "Golden Classical Music Awards" International Competition in USA, 1st Place winner of the American Protege International Music Talent Competition in the USA, 2nd Prize of the 2019 Hong Kong International Vocal Open Competition in Hong Kong. She has also sung in master class with soprano Tracy Dahl.



## **SOJUNG LIM** — *Coco, Second Policewoman, Cupid (cover), Orpheus in the Underworld*

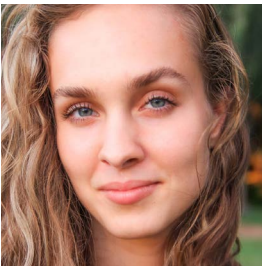
Sojung Lim is a South Korean soprano who has actively performed operatic arias and art songs. Most recently, she performed a duet "Nous avons toujours été deux amies" from *Malvina* by Reynaldo Hahn. In February 2022, she participated in Das Italienisches Liederbuch Projekt with Arlene Schrut at the Peabody Institute. She did her first GPD recital as a form of concert opera, in which she did an opera *Manon* by Jules Massenet. Also, she participated as Altra Damigella in *Liberazione di Ruggiero* by Caccini. In 2020, Lim participated in a pastiche opera film *Isolation* directed by Ann Baltz and performed "VII.Enfant " from *Emilie* by Kaija Saariaho. Lim collaborated with numerous orchestras. She participated in the third Philharmonic Orchestra's Regular Concert in Seongnam Art Center Concert Hall. She also collaborated with National Police Symphony Orchestra at Universal Art Center in South Korea. Sojung Lim received her bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Seoul National University in 2018. She received her master's degree in Voice Performance at Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University in 2021. She recently finished a GPD at Peabody in the studio of Dr. Carl DuPont. Lim will start a DMA degree at The University of North Texas this Fall.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



**JAMIE LOCKHART** — Dodo, *Fourth Policewoman*, Juno (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Jamie is thrilled to be performing in front of a live audience again. She is currently a student at New York University in the Vocal Performance Program/classical track. She most recently appeared as Mary in the musical *Mary Poppins* and Rona Lisa Peretti in the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Ransom Everglades High School Drama Program.) Her other stage credits include Little Red in *Into the Woods* (Miami Classic Music Festival - canceled due to COVID), Francisca in *West Side Story* and Aunt Em/dancer in *The Wiz* (COCA – St. Louis, MO). Jamie has studied voice for 8 years, and enjoys tap, jazz and ballet. She spent 3 summers with Broadway Artists Alliance in the summer intensive program in NYC and placed second nationally in the National Jazz Festival vocal competition. Jamie also plays the violin and is learning to play the piano. During her free time Jamie enjoys exploring New York City, traveling, reading, and sailing.



**OLIVIA MALOUF** — Ensemble, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

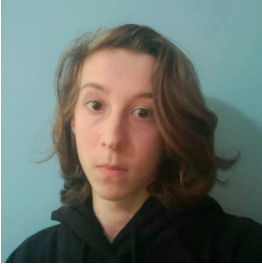
Olivia Malouf resides in Waikoloa, Hawaii. A high school graduate this year, she has spent many long hours studying, filling out applications, and auditioning for various schools. She plans to spend her next four years studying music at Snow College. She loves to spend her time outdoors, playing the piano, diving into good books, hanging with her friends, and singing, dancing, and acting her life away. Olivia has loved the arts for as long as she can remember. She has been in performances with Prince Dance Institute for the last 8 years at the Kahilu Theatre, and has been a part of the Kahilu Youth Troupe in Waimea since May of 2019. Olivia has studied voice with Val Underwood since spring of that same year, and has studied acting with Beth Dunnington for several years. Olivia loves learning new things and has a passion for life. She loves theatre: the people, the setting, the challenges, and the joy that it brings to her life. Her most recent credits include Kahilu Theatre's *All In This Together*, and Prince Dance Institute's *Where The Wild Things Are*.



**ALEXANDRIA MCNEELY** — Diana, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Alexandria McNeely is a soprano from Hickory, North Carolina. Her recent performances include the Queen of the Night in Prague Summer Night's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, as well as Lilith in Eastman Opera Theater's production of *Our Voices*. She recently took a step into the musical world performing the role of Diana in the Lenoir-Rhyne Playmaker's production of *Next to Normal*. Alexandria is a recent graduate of the Eastman School of Music where she received her Master's of Music in Vocal Performance and Literature. She received her undergraduate degree from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Vocal Performance and Sacred Music. Alexandria has immersed herself in the musical community of Western North Carolina, singing for a wide portion of area churches and performing as a member of the Hickory Choral Society. Alexandria is also a member of the Charleston based Taylor Festival Choir. Currently, Alexandria is auditioning for Performance diploma programs in hopes to further her career as a professional singer.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **BENITO MERCIA** — Ensemble, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Benito Mercia is a 18 year old aspiring singer, actor, and performer here to expand his knowledge in the arts. He has been a part of the theater and performing community since he was 12 years old, and has always loved what he performed and learned from his commitment to his passion! This is his 5th year in a row doing HPAF, and he is happy to be here from the growth in knowledge and the world of the arts that has led him here, making him the person he is today! He was born in Hawai'i and lives in Kea'au. He is now officially a young adult, and is happy to be thriving as one! He plans to work on his talents by attending a college sometime in the future. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020, it has been hard for him to start the journey of adulthood and grow to be the person he is. Last year's HPAF gave him the time he needed to reflect on what has become of our community. He is confident that this year's HPAF will help him with his acceptances that will pathe the way to his future career.



## **MIKAYLA MINDIOLA** — Jeanie, *Hair*

Mikayla Mindiola is a young performer who spent her formative years in Oklahoma and Wisconsin. She graduated this spring in 2022 with honors from Illinois State University with a bachelor's degree in Voice Performance and a minor in Italian Studies. At ISU, she was a fourth-year member with America's oldest collegiate circus, the Gamma Phi Circus. She filled numerous leadership positions, performing as a singer and as a member of the Bike-Built-for-Ten act. Also at Illinois State, she has sung the role of the Announcer in a 2020 made for radio production of *Gallantry* and as several roles in the Fall 2021 scenes performance of "A Night of Sondheim and Bernstein,". Most recently, she sang the mezzo-soprano part in James Stephenson's Symphony no. 2 "Voices" with ISU's Wind Symphony at the North Central Division Conference of the College Band Directors National Association in Madison, Wi. She will be continuing her music studies at George Mason University pursuing a master's degree in Vocal Performance.



## **ELLEN MOODY** — Toto, Third Policewoman, Venus (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Ellen Moody is a rising senior at California State University Long Beach studying under Shigemi Matsumoto and will earn her B.M. in Vocal Performance in May 2023. Moody's performance highlights include singing with the Seattle Opera Children's Chorus, performing at Carnegie Hall with the Valencia High School Choir, and performing a leading role in an original graduate student opera. She has been awarded a scholarship from the Santa Clarita Choral Educators Association and the CSULB Presidents List every semester of her undergraduate studies. Ellen recently performed her junior recital this spring and is thrilled to perform in the opera, *Orpheus in the Underworld* at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival.



# DEVELOPING SINGERS



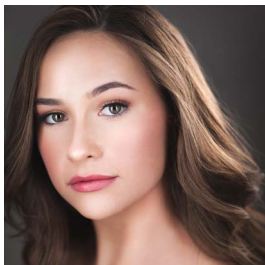
## **JACK MURPHY** — *Claude, Hair*

Jack Murphy is a tenor from Neenah, Wisconsin, equally at home in the worlds of opera and musical theatre. Recent production highlights include *Curlew River* (Madwoman), *The Magic Flute* (Monostatos), *Mary Poppins* (Bert), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour Krelborne), and the filmed opera premiere of *The Nefarious, Immoral but Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke and Mr. Hare* (Daft Jamie). He is an award-winning singer, having received consecutive first place titles at the Wisconsin NATS Auditions in both the musical theatre and classical divisions. In addition to his work as a singing-actor, Murphy is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist, educator and church musician. He assists in the music and worship ministries department at First United Methodist Church in Appleton, WI. Murphy also performs and tours with multiple bands regularly across the Midwest, including Murphy's Law, a rock group he shares with his two brothers. He received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Lawrence University. Love and gratitude to his incredible family, wonderful friends and amazing teachers!



## **JENNIFER O'BRIEN** — *Venus, Eurydice (cover), Orpheus in the Underworld*

Equally at home in the choral ensemble and on the opera stage, soprano Jennifer O'Brien received a Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College, where she sang with the Grammy-nominated Westminster Williamson Voices. With Westminster Symphonic Choir, she performed in the chorus of *Messiah* with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. She will perform *Amore/Valetto* in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in 2022 with Chicago Summer Opera, and perform the role of Venus and cover Euridice in *Orpheus in the Underworld* with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. She received a Master of Music from Boston Conservatory, studying with Kathryn Wright.



## **LILY PARKER** — *Jeanie, Hair*

Lily Parker, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is a B.M. Music Theater major at Oklahoma City University. She most recently was seen as Brooke Wyndham in Oklahoma City University's production of *Legally Blond*. Other previous credits include *Cabaret*, *Songs for a New World*, and *Newsies*. She also currently works with Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma as the Artistic/Casting Intern. She is thrilled to be performing at HPAF for her first time and is honored to work alongside such incredible people!

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



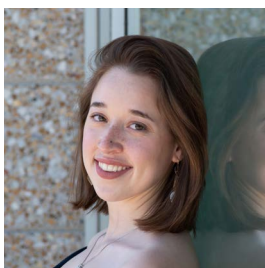
**LOGAN PAVIA** — Walter, Featured Soloist, Berger & Hubert (understudy), *Hair*

Logan Pavia is a Theater Major with a Concentration in Musical theatre Performance. Currently a rising senior at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Logan recently performed as Pippin in *Pippin* at UNCC. He also played Jess/Cutter in *See Rock City and other Destinations* at UNCC. He won 1st Place at the State and Regional Level (Category: Musical theatre) at the National Student Audition Competition. He has been featured in the UNCC Music Department's Fall Orchestra Concert and Student Spotlight Concert. As well as being invited to attend the program in New York to workshop with industry professionals and casting agents.



**SUMMER PEARSON** — Dionne, *Hair*

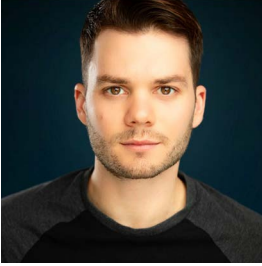
Once a successful lawyer with degrees in math, Japanese, law, and music, Summer Pearson has transitioned to an award-winning singer-songwriter, actress, and teacher who has the unique ability to inspire diverse audiences. Summer's inspirational album "Love Letters" debuted in the Top 50 of the Billboard Gospel Charts, with two singles - "Promised (Never Alone)" and "I Need You" - that have penetrated radio internationally. Summer's recent performance highlights include featured soloist for the syndicated National Cherry Blossom Parade and prominent roles in the stage plays *The Comedy of Errors* and *Everybody*. Summer is currently working on her sophomore album.



**MARISSA PERRI** — Lolo, First Policewoman, Venus (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Marissa Perri is a Junior currently studying at Pennsylvania State University under the instruction of Dr. Rachel E. Copeland. In 2019 and 2021 she was a finalist for the regional NATS competition. In 2019, Marissa was nominated and awarded with the Nina and Raymond Scholarship which funds students who show outstanding academic work and a strong work ethic in music. In Fall of 2020 she was awarded Undergraduate Jury Recognition for significant progress in her vocal studies. She had her first operatic debut as Spirit, in the form of Mercury in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, produced by Penn State Opera Theater. Most recently, Marissa covered the role of Susanna in Penn State Opera Theater's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. When she is not performing, Marissa takes a leadership role in the Penn State Concert Choir and SNATS club as a PR and Social Media manager.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



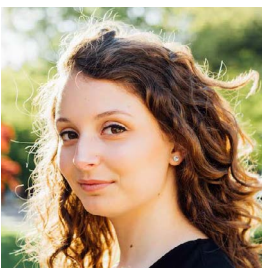
## **CHRISTOPHER SANDERS** — Margaret Meade, Claude & Woof (understudy), *Hair*

Christopher Sanders (he/him/his) is a New York City based performer and voice teacher. He received his BFA in Musical theatre for The University of West Florida and also studied with the International Performing Arts Institute in Munich, Germany. He is currently attending NYU Steinhardt where he is getting his masters degree in Vocal Performance for Musical theatre and also an Advanced Certification in Vocal Pedagogy. While working on his graduate degree he is an Adjunct Voice Professor for the NYU Steinhardt vocal department, acts as the President for the NYU SNATS chapter, and also runs his own private voice studio, Chris Sanders Studio. He has performed in Off-Broadway, Regional, and National/International Tour productions such as: *PJ Masks LIVE*, *Newsies*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Grease*, *West Side Story*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, and more... He was recently published in the VOICEPrints Journal this past year and has another publication with them coming soon. You can connect with him via the following: [www.christophermsanders.com/](http://www.christophermsanders.com/) / IG: @ChrisSandersStudio / @ChrisSandersNYC



## **JULIA SAPETA** — Venus, Eurydice (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Julia Sapeta is currently a third year Vocal Performance and Global Communication and World Language Studies student at Chapman University. She most recently took part in the chorus of the opera *Florenzia en el Amazonas* and also won first place in the Southern California region for the MTAC VOCE vocal competition. This will be Julia's first time attending the Hawaii Performing Festival. She hopes to attend grad school in Germany and has a life-long dream of performing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.



## **ZOË SHELLER** — Juno, Public Opinion (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Zoë Sheller is a Mezzo-Soprano from Salisbury, Maryland. She made her Peabody Opera Theatre debut as Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in Fall of 2020. Zoë attended OperaFest Sewanee, in collaboration with Sewanee Summer Music Festival in the summer of 2021. In March of 2022, she was the Serving Girl in *Hin und Zurück* by Hindemith and a member of the chorus in Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tiresias* with Peabody Opera Theatre. This summer, Zoë will be performing the role of Juno and covering Public Opinion in the production of *Orpheus in the Underworld* by Offenbach with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Zoë began pursuing classical voice at 16 years old under the tutelage of Alina Kozinska at Peabody Preparatory. Now, she is in her fourth year of undergraduate training with Elizabeth Futral at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. After graduation, Zoë plans on continuing her studies while pursuing a Master's in Music degree, with a concentration in Opera Performance, at Oklahoma City University studying with Dr. William Christensen.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **SOLOMON SHUMATE** — Ensemble, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Solomon Shumate, 19, born and raised on Hawai'i Island and a 2021 high school graduate, elected to take a gap year this past year and plans to attend a conservatory for vocal performance in Fall of 2022. At age 9, Solomon was cast as Reuben, in the University of Hawai'i-Hilo production of *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (2012). He has performed in several Kahilu Theatre productions including musicals such as *Spring Awakening* (2018), *South Pacific* (2018), *West Side Story* (2019), and was staged to perform as Sergei in *Matilda* (2021) prior to its unexpected cancellation. Solomon was first invited to join the HPAF's Young Singers program as a scholar in 2018, and again in each of the subsequent years. He currently trains vocally under Val Underwood and has regularly undergone acting support through various offerings of Kahilu's Youth Troupe Program. With pride and appreciation he is delighted to be a part of HPAF's Developing Singers group!



## **DAKOTA SIPUSIC** — Dodo, *Fourth Policewoman*, Juno (cover), *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Dakota Sipusic is a sophomore at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory majoring in vocal performance and music theory, studying voice under Dr. Marc Weagraff. She is originally from Youngstown, Ohio and has been an active member of the Singing Angels Performing Chorus in Cleveland for four years with a solo of "Can I Reach that Star?" senior year and a member of Stambaugh Chorus for three years. Dakota attended Cleveland Institute of Music's pre-college program her senior year. Throughout high school she studied voice with Dr. Misook Yun from YSU and piano with Professor Yazvac from YSU. Dakota also has four years of acting classes and four years of experience dancing tap and ballet. She participated in the Baldwin Wallace Voice and Opera Intensive and the YSU summer Voice Intensive where she had solos in both "If I Loved You" and "Who'll Buy My Lavender?" She is a member of Bella Voce and recently performed in the world premiere of the opera *Bernarda Alba* at Baldwin Wallace. Dakota is so grateful for this opportunity and her mom for making this experience possible! She feels extremely lucky to have had this time and hopes everyone enjoys the show!



## **BENJAMIN SNYDER** — Margaret Mead, *Berger* (understudy), *Hair*

Benjamin Snyder is very excited to be a first-time attendant of HPAF! Ben comes from Titusville Pennsylvania, where they started acting as a child. Ben's first appearance on stage was as a baby in a production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*. Since then, Ben has worked in multiple different areas of theatre including actor, director, tech, and playwright. To date Ben has been a part of over forty separate productions. Some of Ben's most notable roles include the Baker in the Erie Playhouse's 2021 production of *Into the Woods*, Jud Fry in Titusville Summer Theater's 2018 production of *Oklahoma*, and Beast in Titusville Summer Theater's 2016 production of *Beauty and the beast*. Ben has a degree in music education from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, and will be attending New York University in the fall to begin a masters in vocal performance, with a concentration in musical theatre.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **LILITH SPIVACK** — Eurydice, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Lilith Spivack is a dynamic soprano from the San Francisco Bay Area. Praised for her sparkling tone and floating high notes, she is at home in a range of repertoire. Ms. Spivack's recent highlights include performances at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, Manhattan School of Music, and Canadian Vocal Arts Institute. Later in the 2022 season, she will perform in a concert series with the Bach-Millennium Music Program.

Previous roles include Enid in *The Interaction Effect* (with American Opera Projects), Vera in *Moscow*, Cheryomushki, and Ruth in *Later the Same Evening*. Ms. Spivack's previous roles and scene work include: Nannetta (*Falstaff*), Alma (*Summer and Smoke*), Cunegonde (*Candide*), Susanna (*Le Nozze de Figaro*), Aloès and Laoula (*L'étoile*), and Summer (*The Fairy Queen*). She has performed in the ensemble of *La finta giardiniera*, Leoncavallo's *La Bohème*, *Naughty Marietta*, and *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*. Ms. Spivack is also a passionate teaching artist. She is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and is a student of Jonathan Beyer. Ms. Spivack is elated to perform the role of Eurydice in *Orpheus in the Underworld*.



## **AMANDA STAUB** — Hannah After, *As One*

Mezzo-soprano Amanda Staub is a multifaceted performer of a range of operatic roles, oratorio, and art song. This season she returned to Tri-Cities Opera as a Resident Artist to sing Tisbe and cover the title role in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and perform Edna in Joe Illick's children's opera, *Stone Soup*. As a Resident Artist with Tri-Cities Opera in the 2020-2021 season, she sang the roles of the Monkey Queen and Lord Tiger in *Monkey & Francine in the*

*City of Tigers* and was a featured soloist in Tri-Cities and Annapolis Opera's video co-production of *Acis and Galatea*. Ms. Staub is a graduate of the Maryland Opera Studio where she performed the roles of Bessie (*Mahagonny Songspiel*), Emma Jones (*Street Scene*), and Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Other recently performed roles include Deborah (*Non motus*) in Poptart Punk Opera's inaugural season, Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Sesto (*Giulio Cesare*), and the title role in *Ariodante*. In the summer of 2022, Ms. Staub will sing the role of Hannah (after) in Hawaii Performing Arts Festival's production of *As One*. Passionate about education and providing students with opportunities, Ms. Staub has held multiple positions as a private instructor and artistic administrator. As an undergraduate student, she co-founded OperaTerps at the University of Maryland, a student-run opera company now in its ninth season.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **YUMEKO STERN** — Sheila, *Hair*

Yumeko Stern is currently pursuing a BM in Vocal Performance with a concentration in musical theatre at NYU Steinhardt and studies with Justin John Moniz. She has been performing in Connecticut community theaters for the past nine years. Her favorite roles she has played are Lola Stover from *Parade* (Opera House Players), Lucy from *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Cirillo Summer Theatre), and James Trotter from *James and the Giant Peach* (Standing Room Only). Some of her recent accomplishments include placing 1st in the Lower College Treble Musical Theatre division and placing 2nd in the Lower College Treble Classical division at the NATS Eastern Region Student Auditions. Love and gratitude to the faculty, cast, and crew of HPAF.



## **SARAH STREZEWSKI** — Cupid, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Sarah Strezewski is a fourth-year Vocal Performance student at Baldwin Wallace University and studies with Professor Nancy Maultsby. Her most recent roles include Spirit in the form of Mercury in *Dido & Aeneas*, an originated role of Campbell in a short, virtual Opera, *Virtually Dead*, Alcina in Handel's *Alcina* and Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* this past Spring at Baldwin Wallace University's Bach fest this year under direction of Dr. Dirk Garner. Other accomplishments include being asked to be a soloist for her highschool's baroque ensemble, and winning this year's Hakola Competition. She is incredibly thankful for her family, friends, voice teacher and faculty for the support through the years.



## **CJ TOMASZEWSKI** — Claude, *Hair*

CJ Tomaszewski is a junior in NYU Steinhardt's Vocal Performance program, studying music theater in the studio of Dr. Scott Murphree. At NYU he has been seen in *Applause* as Duane Fox, *Orpheus in the Underworld* as Orpheus, *Orfeo ed Euridice* as Chorus, *Cry-baby* as a Whiffle, and *Wonderland* as the White Rabbit. Favorite past roles include Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family*, Roger in *Grease*, and Madame Lucy in *Irene*. CJ has been seen in the NYU Chorale and is an active member of Village Voices, NYU's premier jazz and contemporary vocal ensemble led by vocal jazz veterans Janis Siegel and Lauren Kinhan. Outside of NYU, CJ enjoys arranging vocal music and teaching private piano and voice lessons virtually to students from across the country.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



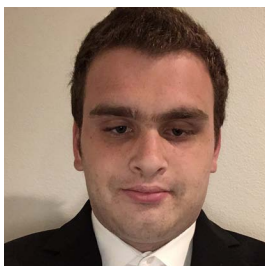
**ANNEKE VAN SLYKE** — Public Opinion, *Orpheus in the Underworld*

Hailing from Syracuse, New York, Anneke Van Slyke is a soprano pursuing a B.M in Vocal Performance at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, under the teaching of Dr. Marc Weagraff. Anneke has been seen as Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina* (Baldwin Wallace Conservatory), under the direction of Scott Skiba. She was also most recently seen as Amelia in the world premiere of Griffin Candey's *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, under the musical direction of Dean Buck, as well as a member of the chorus of Baldwin Wallace Conservatory's 2022 production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Anneke is also an active member in the Conservatory, as a member of the Mu Phi music honors fraternity, and a member of Motet choir. She was also seen performing Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory's renowned Bach Fest in the spring of 2022.



**JOSHUA VREELAND** — *Woof, Hair*

Joshua Vreeland currently works at the Franke Center for the Arts Children's Theatre located in Marshall Michigan, where he serves as the music director for their 2021-2022 season. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Western Michigan University. He was recently accepted into the graduate program in Music Theatre Voice Performance at New York University's Steinhardt School, and plans to begin his studies there this Fall. His recent roles include Ferrando in the Western Michigan University Opera Theatre's production of *Così fan Tutte*, and an Apostle in the Tibbits Summerstock Theatre's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



**FRANK WATNICK** — *Mercury, Artisteus/Pluto (cover), Orpheus in the Underworld*

Frank Watnick is a tenor from Glendale, California. He is a May 2022 graduate of Chapman University with a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance. He has performed in opera productions with Opera Chapman for the past three years. Frank plans to continue his studies at graduate school and pursue a master's degree in Vocal Performance in the fall. This is his first time performing opera outside of California, and looks forward to this opportunity. Frank is not only an accomplished singer. He also played the violin in the Chapman orchestra and taught himself to play the cello.

# DEVELOPING SINGERS



## **SAMUEL WETZEL** — *Jupiter, Orpheus in the Underworld*

Recently graduating from Baldwin Wallace where he studied with Dr. Marc Weagraff, Sam Wetzel is from Erie Pennsylvania where he grew up on his family's sheep ranch. He was most recently seen in Baldwin Wallace's production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* as Count Almaviva. Other performances include *Winterreise*, *Alcina* (Melisso), *Cinderella 99* (Dad), *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Pelléas cover), *Ghosts of Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald cover), *Dido and Aeneas* (Aeneas). Sam can next be seen performing Marcello in CU Boulder's production of *La Bohème* in the fall, where he will also be pursuing an MM in Voice. Sam is involved in the production of both new and early music, Art Song, and anything that challenges the way we think about music.

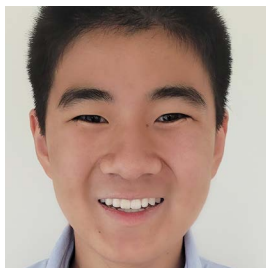


## **CHARITY WILLIAMS** — *Emmaretta, Featured Soloist, Dionne & Sheila (understudy), Hair*

Charity Williams is 21 year old, attending UNCC in Charlotte North Carolina with a Bachelors in Dance with a concentration in choreography, performance, and theory; as well as completing two certificates in Film production and Musical theatre. Within being a full time student, she has had the opportunities of being in community shows, films, and her local UNCC dance concerts. Shows such as: *Some Enchanted Evening*, and *Head over heels*. She has also been in a dance film known as *Remembrance* Choreographed by Tamara Williams. With her time spent at UNCC over the past couple years; She has been educated by—established—Sequina DuBose and Laura Waringer. Her work not only as a dancer but with her singing background impact heavily on her progression within the performing arts. Her background in years of choral music as well as Jazz, HipHop, Musical theatre, and Contemporary dance all excel within her talents.



# YOUNG SINGERS



## **CLIFTON CHANG** — Featured Artist, Young Singer Showcase

With experience in both choir and musical theatre, Clifton loves to sing and perform onstage. He has done multiple productions at The Berkeley Playhouse as part of their Teenstage program, the most recent being *Head Over Heels* as Basilius and *Urinetown* as Little Sammy. Most importantly, Clifton would like to thank his family and friends for their support!



## **ERIC GEE** — Featured Artist, Young Singer Showcase

Eric Gee has been doing musical theatre since he was 3 years old. He was born in Waimea and is a Junior at Kealakehe High School. Some of his past musical theatre experiences are *West Side Story*, *South Pacific*, *13 The Musical*, *Best of Broadway* in Hawaii, Kahilu Theatre Gold concerts, and *All Together Now!* Additionally, he is an alumni of the HPAF preteen singers program and was also in the HPAF show, *Stars of Tomorrow*. Outside of the arts, he enjoys activities such as Chinese Lion Dance, studying Global Affairs, and being an online influencer. In the past year, Gee has won multiple awards in academic prestige such as The NHSMUN Research and Preparation Award of Excellence, The IMUNA Award of Excellence, and the Eddie Tangen Award. He trains personally with Beth Dunnington and Val Underwood and plans to continue his studies and pursue a career in the arts. He would like to thank his family for supporting him throughout his entire life.



## **NOELANI LOUGHERY-KAWAIHOA** — Featured Artist, Young Singer Showcase

Noelani is an accomplished dancer, performer, singer and student at Parker School, Hawaii. Her vocal training includes the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival Young Singers Program and vocal coach Val Underwood. Noelani is a member of the Kahilu Youth Troupe at Kahilu Theatre and studies acting with Beth Dunnington. Her dance credits include Break the Floor Productions Jump Tour, 24/7 Tour, Nuvo Dance Competition, SLIDE tap intensives, NYC's Broadway Dance Center and Prince Dance Institute. Noelani enjoys traveling, cooking, painting, playing ukulele and sunsets on the beach.

# YOUNG SINGERS



## **PIERCE PEARSON** — Featured Artist, Young Singer Showcase

Pierce Pearson is a passionate and thoughtful African American male who aspires to greatness at every turn, including in his educational, spiritual, and musical lives. He is especially fond of music, and he has made a great effort to nurture his musical career since he began singing at the age of 4. He has participated in every advanced choir opportunity presented to him in Howard County (HC), including the HC Lyric Chorus, the HC Honors Chorus, the HC G/T Choir, and the Junior All-State Choir. He has been fortunate enough to branch out even further through Washington Performing Arts Children of the Gospel Choir (COTG), performing and singing solos in spaces such as the National Cathedral, the Kennedy Center, and the Strathmore — Pierce was even able to sing at the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the U.S. Capitol this past winter thanks to connections within COTG. Pierce's passion for music has led him into the theatre world as well, wherein he has performed multiple shows, including *Mulan Jr.*, *Aladdin Jr.*, *Pippin*, and *Emma the Musical*, serving as understudy to Pippin in *Pippin* and a main character in *Emma*. Pierce is excited to see what the musical future holds.



## **MATTHEW WEITZEL** — Featured Artist, Young Singer Showcase

Matthew Weitzel is a sophomore in high school in Santa Barbara, California. He has been doing theater, piano, and voice for many years through a variety of local opportunities. Starting in 2016, Matthew joined the children's chorus of the Santa Barbara Opera performing in such classics as *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin*, and *La Bohème* in Santa Barbara's Granada Theater. In Junior High School he enjoyed several lead roles for school shows including playing Ren in *Footloose* and Jeremiah in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. For his performance as Junior in *Hello My Baby*, the school awarded him 2020 Best Vocalist. Since then, Matthew has worked with the Ojai Youth Opera, an opera troupe devoted to youth-only opera productions where he got invaluable experience working with contemporary music (*The Nightingale*) and working with a live orchestra as a soloist (*Brundibar*). Matthew has been a regular for the last few years with the Lights Up! Theater Company of Santa Barbara, enjoying a variety of roles including Brother Jeremiah in *Something Rotten!* and Rolf in *The Sound of Music*. He is most grateful for the chance he has had to study voice with Agatha Carubia for the last five years.



## **THALEN WILEY** — Featured Artist, Young Singer Showcase

Thalen Wiley is a 16 year old singer, dancer, and actor. He was born in Michigan and moved to Hawaii in 2015. He found singing and acting after he moved, which helped him with his transition and gave him the confidence he needed to stabilize his new life on the island. In this year's HPAF, he is participating to advance his singing skills, meet more people that share the same passions as him, and further his knowledge into the performing arts. The performing arts is something Thalen has come to love because it has given him the possibilities to explore himself and be a part of an amazing and talented community. Now this year's HPAF can give him that extraordinary opportunity to make that happen.



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*Aloha fellow HPAF music lovers!*

My name is Peggy Kent, and I am a loyal, long-term Hawaii Performing Arts Festival supporter. I am also a licensed real estate agent here in Hawaii, and part owner of the RE/MAX Lava Luxury franchise with our offices in the Kings' Shops at Waikoloa Beach Resort. Over the past 30 years I have lived on the Big Island in Keauhou, Waimea, and the Kohala coast, and now in a resort community north of Kona. We raised our children here and they were schooled at HPA in Waimea.

I would love to earn your business, and to support HPAF at the same time! In exchange for your business, I will give 25% of my commissions I make working for you to HPAF as a donation. And if you can refer others to me, I will make the same commitment.

*We are cut from the same cloth - we love music and the arts, and without HPAF our lives here on the Big Island would not be as enriched.*



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