



University of North Texas College of Music

Ensemble Recital | Sunday, November 10, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.
Lyric Theater - Murchison Performing Arts Center

UNT Opera Theater

Directed by Stefan Novinski
Conducted by Stephanie Rhodes Russell

Così fan tutte..... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1789-1790) (1756-1791)
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte
(1749-1838)

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Program one hundred and thirty-four of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

<u>Dramatis Personæ</u>	<u>Voice Type</u>	<u>Performer</u>
Fiordiligi , sister of Dorabella, engaged to Guglielmo.	soprano	Rebecca Mugnolo
Dorabella , sister of Fiordiligi, engaged to Ferrando.	soprano/mezzo	Sara Foshée
Ferrando , a soldier, engaged to Dorabella.	tenor	Zihui Pang
Guglielmo , a soldier, engaged to Fiordiligi.	baritone	Yonghyun Kim
Despina , maid of Fiordiligi and Dorabella.	soprano/mezzo	Yuhui Yang
Don Alfonso , a philosopher, friend of Ferrando and Guglielmo.	baritone	Isaac Carlin

Understudies: Maiya Williams (Dorabella), Tyler Warwas (Ferrando)

Chorus

Soprano

Lauren Abell
Kayla Flores
Maryn West
Rachel Cunningham
Sorrel McCarthy
Victoria Cerda

Alto

Diane Tiscareño
Eleanor Williams
Maddie Frost
Ris Kemp

Tenor

Cian Sheridan
Mason Clarkson
Ramero Vargas
Tyler Warwas

Bass

Benjamin Bassett
Colin Busch-
Kennedy
Colman
Scheibmeir
Joshua LaPrade

Artistic Team

Stage Director.....Stefan Novinski
Conductor.....Stephanie Rhodes Russell
Vocal Coach.....Sharon Bjornedal Lavery
Chorusmaster.....Kathryn Davidson
Scenic Designer.....Donna Marquet
Costume Designer.....Michael Robinson
Lighting Designer.....Adam Chamberlain
Make-up Designer.....Diane Tiscareño
Assistant Director.....Jennifer Watson
Opera Pianists.....Joohee Jeong, Lauren Koszyk, and Yu-Hsuan Lu

Production Team

Production Manager.....Julie Hohman
Resident Stage Manager.....Sorrel McCarthy
Stage Manager.....Rudy Polk
Assistant Stage Manager.....Christen Caldwell
Assistant Stage Manager.....Christina Lopez
Assistant Stage Manager.....Macey Deck
Supertitles.....Kara McBain

Orchestra

Violin I

Gabriel Parker
Delane Marsh
Oscar Morales
Chloe Svadlenka
Michelle Martey
Xiachu Song

Violin II

Kevork Esmeryan
Thi Tang
Olivia Dinardis
Kevin Fu
Arsenio Pena
Miguel Guillén

Viola

Shanya Chynwat
Cameron Halsell
Margot Elder

Violoncello

Xiyan Liu
Tyler Aguiard
Minching Lin
Jiapeng Liu

Bass

Xuan Xu
Zoe Czarniecki

Flute

Carter Reynolds
Allyson Kreider

Clarinet

Lucas Shroyer
Andrew Ruffen

Oboe

Ava Raymond
Haydee Norris

Bassoon

Emily O'Donnell
James Smelley

Horn

Daniel Castillon
Abigail D'Acunto

Trumpet

McKenna Hill
Georgia Hageman

Timpani

Aidan Henderson

Harpsichord

Joohee Jeong

ARTISTIC TEAM



STEPHANIE RHODES RUSSELL, (Conductor) recently completed a residency as Conducting Fellow with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra where she appeared regularly with the ensemble leading education, family, and community concerts while serving as cover conductor for the symphonic subscription series. She is the recipient of a 2019 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, designed to aid outstanding young conductors in developing their talents and careers. She has served on the music staff of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, The Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, LA Opera, San Francisco Opera, and Washington National Opera, amongst others, and her extensive operatic experience in the roles of assistant conductor, prompter, chorus master, rehearsal pianist, and diction coach, brings a comprehensive understanding to her work. Other recent engagements include concerts with the American Festival Chorus and Orchestra, performances of Handel's *Alcina* at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, an engagement with Washington National Opera's forum for new works, the American Opera Initiative, and *The Magic Flute* and *Dido and Aeneas* with the Miami Music.



STEFAN NOVINSKI, (Stage Director) is a nationally recognized theater director and performance coach. He is an Associate Professor of Drama at the University of Dallas. He continues to direct professionally across the country, primarily in southern California where he spent a decade working at multiple Tony-award winning theaters including La Jolla Playhouse, Kirk Douglas Theatre, and South Coast Repertory Theatre. His directing centers on the creation of new musicals and the reinterpretations of classic works. At SCR, he directed eight shows, including the world premiere musical, *An Italian Straw Hat*, and a critically acclaimed production of *A Little Night Music* starring Stephanie Zimbalist. Other national credits: *J.O.B. the Hip-Opera* for the New York Musical Theatre Festival (LA Drama Critics Circle nominations for Best Direction and Best Musical), *Wreckage* by Caridad Svitch for New Dramatists and the world premiere of *Toy Story the Musical* for Disney Creative Entertainment. The recording of his production of the *The Golden Apple* for Lyric Stage was the first full length recording of the 1954 operetta and was named one of the top ten opera recordings by Opera News. Recent credits include productions at Florida Repertory Theater (*Native Gardens*), Boise Contemporary Theater (*Sweat*), and The Falcon Theater (*For Piano and Harpo* written

by and starring Dan Castellaneta, the voice of Homer Simpson). His Dallas credits include *Macbeth* and *Richard III* for Shakespeare Dallas and *The Golden Apple* at Lyric Stage. He is the artistic director of the site-specific theatre company PlaySite. He holds an MFA in Directing from the University of California, San Diego.



SHARON BJORN DAL LAVERY, (Vocal Coach), Coach, conductor, pianist, and soprano Sharon Bjorndal Lavery began her career as an Assistant Chorus Master at New York City Opera. She went on to serve as Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor for productions at the Bard Summerscape Festival, Opera Philadelphia, and Utah Opera. Dr. Lavery has served as coach, conductor, pianist, and singer for opera companies and symphonies around the country, including Wolf Trap Opera, San Diego Opera, San Diego Symphony, Kentucky Opera, Louisville Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, Juilliard Orchestra, Waco Symphony, Vox Seraphim Choir and Orchestra, and McLennan Opera. She has worked closely with living composers Jake Heggie, Marc Adamo, Deborah Drattell, and Daron Hagen, as well as the late Stephen Sondheim, interpreting premieres and reviving classics. A champion of underrepresented composers, Dr. Lavery performed the Florence Price Piano Concerto in One Movement and the American premiere of the Agathe Backer Grøndahl Piano Concerto this past year.

Sharon Bjorndal Lavery received the Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano from The Juilliard School, Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, and was a double major in Piano and Vocal Performance for the Bachelor of Music degree at Oberlin College Conservatory.



KATHRYN DAVIDSON, (Chorus Master) is a conductor, educator, and singer dedicated to creating community through the choral arts. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting. Along with serving as a Teaching Assistant, Kathryn is the Assistant Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Chorus and Chorus Master for Opera Arlington. Kathryn earned the Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Indiana University, where she served as Assistant Chorus Master for multiple mainstage operas, directed the All-Campus Chorus, and was Assistant Conductor of the GRAMMY-nominated Singing Hoosiers. Davidson holds a Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance from UNT. Kathryn has performed nationally and internationally as a soloist and professional choral singer in Texas, North Carolina, Indiana, Washington, Italy, and Germany. Recent engagements include the Junges Stuttgart Bach Ensemble and the Bloomington Bach

Cantata Project.

Prior to her graduate studies, Kathryn taught choir, music theory, and music history at Great Hearts Academy in Irving. An advocate for music education, Kathryn believes that musical experiences should be a societal priority and accessible for all people.



JENNIFER WATSON, (Assistant Director) is a second year DMA student and teaching fellow at the University of North Texas. Originally from Oklahoma, Ms. Watson has previously received a BME in Vocal Music Education from Oklahoma Baptist University and an MM in Voice Performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Her most recent roles have been the Foreign Woman (*The Consul*), Gertrude (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Miss Jessel (*Turn of the Screw*). She has performed as a soloist with the Oklahoma City Ballet and Philharmonic for Caniparoli's *Lady of the Camellias*. After her involvement with Chicago Summer Opera's *Turn of the Screw*, the production won the "Broadway World Chicago Award for Best Production of an Opera 2023." She is a recipient of the UNT opera department scholarship and a member of Stephen Morscheck's studio.



RUDY POLK, (Stage Manager) from Clinton, Mississippi, is a tenor soloist with considerable achievements as a young musician. Last year, Rudy played as Adult Martin in the world premiere of *(That Hell-Bound Train)* and a Courtier (*Cendrillon*) with UNT Opera. Over the summer, Rudy completed a study-abroad program in Italy where he studied the role of Alfredo (*La Traviata*), and he also performed his first solo recital in Jackson, Mississippi. Rudy is currently a junior studying vocal performance at the University of North Texas with William Joyner, and he is also a part of the UNT A Cappella Choir. This semester, Rudy competed in the semi-finals of the UNT Concerto Competition and sang in the Greenlawn Salon Concert. Upcoming roles include Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*) with UNT Opera, and he will continue to perform recitals around Texas this coming year.



JOOHEE JEONG, (Collaborative Pianist) is a doctoral candidate and teaching assistant at the University of North Texas, in piano performance. Previously, she served as the accompanist for *The Telephone* and *The Medium* by Gian Carlo Menotti, as well as *Proving Up* by Missy Mazzoli with the Opera University of Notre Dame, where she also taught individual lessons as an Adjunct Piano Faculty member. Currently, she is an Opera Teaching Assistant at UNT. Joohee holds a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from Illinois State University, along with another Master of Music and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Indiana South Bend. She studies under Liudmila Georgievskaya and has received the COM/DT Award and COM/DT Competitive Merit Scholarships at UNT.



YU-HSUAN LU, (Collaborative Pianist) originally from Taiwan, Ms. Lu has an affinity with both opera and the voice. She has performed regularly with musicians around the US, Taiwan, and China. She was a pianist-coach at the Music On Site for their production of *Carmen* in 2022 and will return for *Notes on Viardot* in the winter of 2024. Yu-Hsuan is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in collaborative piano at the University of North Texas, where she is a graduate assistant for UNT Opera. Yu-Hsuan freelances throughout North Texas and maintains an active performance schedule. She holds two Master of Music degrees, one in Collaborative Piano and the other in Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She also held the position of associate professor of piano at Huaiyin Normal University, China in 2017.



LAUREN KOSZYK, (Collaborative Pianist) is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Business Administration at the University of North Texas. Originally from Normal, Illinois, Ms. Koszyk has given performances across Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the United States. In capacities as an opera pianist, coach, or music director Ms. Koszyk has worked with Illinois Festival Opera, Midwest Institute of Opera, Music Onsite Inc., Musiktheater Bavaria, Opera Seme, and UNT Opera. She has accompanied masterclasses given by renowned Metropolitan Opera soprani Angela Brown and Yvonne Redman. Ms. Koszyk has prepared productions of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *La bohème*, *La rondine*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, *Mese mariano*, *Suor Angelica*, *That Hell-bound Train*, *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and *The Pirates of Penzance* and has assisted in productions of *Aïda*, *Carmen*, *Cendrillon*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, and *Don Giovanni*. Ms. Koszyk holds degrees in piano performance, collaborative piano, and German and currently serves as the Rehearsal Coordinator and Music Staff Teaching Assistant for UNT Opera.



CHRISTEN M. CALDWELL, (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior from Dallas, Texas studying voice performance with Jennifer Lane. She recently graduated from Houston Community College (HCC) with an Associate of Arts in Music. Past credits at HCC and Temple College (TC) include *Witch (Into the Woods)*, and *Norma Valverde (Hands on a Hardbody)*. She also performed in Opera Scenes productions as *Carmen (Carmen)*, *Alcina (Alcina)*, and *Paride (Paride ed Elena)*. In addition to two Honors Recitals at HCC, Christen was a featured artist in the Jazz Orchestra JazzFest at TC, and she sang in *Aretha: The Musical* at The Black Academy of Arts & Letters in 2012. She also performed in the Voices of Our Journey Black History Program in 2023 and won 2nd place in the NATS-Intermediate Adult Classical Division that same year. Christen's awards include the Downbeat Award for Best Performing Arts Vocal Ensemble with the

Lab Singers, and Jazz Vocalist of the Year at Temple College in 2013. At UNT, she is a recipient of the UNT Opera Scholarship.



CHRISTINA NOELLE LOPEZ, (Assistant Stage Manager) from McAllen, Texas, she is a senior at UNT and studies under Stephen Morscheck under scholarship provided by the College of Music. In previous summers Christina has participated in the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, the Opera Academy of Bodrum, and the Opera Bastide summer program. Here at UNT, Christina has performed in the fairy ensemble in *Cendrillon*, and 1st Knabe (*Die Zauberflöte*). Additionally, she is a member of UNT's baroque ensemble, Vox Aquilae. Upcoming next semester Christina will be organizing her senior recital and performing the role of Ida (*Die Fledermaus*)



KARA MCBAIN, (Supertitles) studies at the University of North Texas in the Doctor of Musical Arts program with Dr. Carol Wilson. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, she earned her Bachelor of Music *summa cum laude* from Missouri State University in 2020 and received her Master of Music in 2022 from the University of North Texas. She is a recipient of a Teaching Fellowship in the Voice Department at UNT, won first place in the 2021 Texoma NATS competition, was a finalist in the 2021 Colorado Bach Ensemble Young Artist Competition, and won first prize in the 2021 GCC Series “Best Handel Performance”. Recent roles include Magda (*La Rondine*) at the University of North Texas, La Contessa (*Le nozze di Figaro*) at the University of North Texas, Magda (*La Rondine*) at Opera in the Ozarks, La Musique (*Les arts florissants*) with the Dallas Bach Society, and Marenka (*The Bartered Bride*) at the University of North Texas. Upcoming engagements include the soprano solos in Handel’s *Messiah* with the Dallas Bach Society, and a recital with the Lewisville Lake Symphony International Chamber Series.

SOLOISTS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



CHRISTOPHER GRAY, bass-baritone, from Dallas, TX, is in his third year of undergraduate studies in Vocal Performance at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Stephen Morscheck. Christopher was a semifinalist in this year’s UNT College of Music Concerto Competition. Recent roles include Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) with Varna International Music Academy, and the Professor (*That Hell-Bound Train*) with UNT Opera. This season, Christopher will sing the role of Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*) with UNT Opera, Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) with Music On Site Inc., as well as the Sodbuster (*Proving Up*) with UNT Opera. Christopher is a recipient of the UNT Opera Scholarship, the Mirabeau B. Lamar Award of Excellence, and the Marca Bee Lircher Vocal Performance Scholarship.



DONGXU DING, mezzo-soprano, is a first-year DMA student from China studying with Carol Wilson. She is the recipient of TGS Academic Achievement scholarship and COM Donald E. Waugh Mml scholarship. In 2024, Dongxu received her master's degree from The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen). She performed in several Opera Scenes productions while at CUHK, portraying roles such as Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*), Carmen (*Carmen*), Charlotte (*Werther*), and Marthe (*Faust*). Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*) and chorus (*Die Fledermaus*).



ISAAC CARLIN, baritone, is a second-year doctoral candidate from Omaha, Nebraska, studying under the tutelage of Stephen Morscheck. Isaac most recently returned from southern France where he performed as Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Opéra Bastide, singing the role in the medieval French dialect of Occitan. Recent roles include Sacristan (*Tosca*) in concert with the UNT Symphony Orchestra, and Peter (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Pandolfe (*Cendrillon*), and Escamillo (*Carmen*), all with UNT Opera. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Falke (*Die Fledermaus*), and Mr. Johannes “Pa” Zegner (*Proving Up*).



LAUREN SALAZAR, mezzo-soprano, is a second-year Opera Graduate Artist Certificate and M.B.A in Music Business student studying under the tutelage of Dr. Carol Wilson. She holds a B.M in Voice Performance from The University of Texas at Austin and a M.M in Voice Performance from the University of North Texas. An avid photographer and arts administrator, she has worked for various arts organizations across the United States, including Butler Opera International Voice Competition, Brevard Music Center, Wintergreen Music Festival, North Texas Vocal Arts, the University of North Texas College of Music, Baylor Opera Theatre, and more. Equally, her previous roles include the title roles of *Carmen*, *Hänsel*, and *Dido*, amongst others such as Third Wood Sprite (*Rusalka*) with Opera Arlington, Dorothée (*Cendrillon*), and The Girl - Trio (*Trouble in Tahiti*) with UNT Opera Theatre, Amahl (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) with Music on Site Inc., as well as Annio (*La Clemenza di Tito*) and Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*) with the Butler Opera Center. She has sung in choruses with

Fort Worth Opera, Dallas Bach Society, and Austin Opera. Recently, she performed as Zweite Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Opéra Bastide, and this fall she will sing as Despina (*Così fan tutte*) with UNT Opera Theatre.



MAIYA WILLIAMS, mezzo-soprano, and Hutto, TX native, is a Graduate Artist Certificate student studying Voice Performance at the University of North Texas. Currently, she studies under the tutelage of Professor Molly Fillmore. In addition to opera, Williams has a notably rich background in concert and choral music, having been the Alto soloist for Duruflé’s *Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, and Thomas’ *Fern Hill*. As well, performing with The Fort Worth Opera for Geter’s *African American Requiem* and numerous projects with Orpheus Chamber Singers under J.D. Burnett. Recent engagements include The Dallas Opera production of Gounod’s *Romeo et Juliette* as an auxiliary chorus member, Spoleto Festival, and an Emerging Artist position with Seagle Festival. Upcoming engagements see Ms. Williams back with the Dallas opera chorus

for their production of *La Traviata*, Mezzo soloist for Duruflé’s *Requiem*, Alto soloist for Mozart’s *Coronation Mass*, returning for the 30th season with Orpheus Chamber Singers, and singing the role of Tallest Zegner Daughter in the UNT Opera Production of *Proving Up*.



REBECCA MUGNOLO, soprano, is a second-year Graduate Artist Certificate student from Rochester, New York studying Voice Performance with Dr. Carol Wilson. Rebecca holds a B.S. degree in Voice Performance from Roberts Wesleyan University and a M.M. degree in Voice Performance from the University of North Texas. During her undergraduate studies, she was the winner of the 2019 Roberts Wesleyan College Concerto/Aria Competition and performed the roles of Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*) and Pamina (*The Magic Flute*) in RWU Opera Theatre productions. Rebecca is also a past two-time first-place winner and third-place winner of the CNYFL NATS auditions as well as a first-place winner of the Eastern Region NATS. Recent performances include Giannetta (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Stella (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), and Cendrillon (*Cendrillon*) with UNT Opera, Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*) with the Fillmore Opera Studio, and Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*) with Varna International Music Academy. This

season at UNT Opera she will perform the title role of Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*.



SARA FOSHÉE, soprano, is a senior from San Antonio, Texas studying voice performance with Mary Mills. Most recently, she was in Lucca, Italy performing the roles of Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*) and Sifare (*Mitridate di Ponto*) with the summer program Accademia Vocale Lorenzo Malfatti. Previous credits include Suzy and Lolette (*La Rondine*), Lillian (*That Hell-Bound Train*), First Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) in the UNT Opera scenes program and chorus in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *The Bartered Bride*. In performance with UNT Opera, she will again perform the role of Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*) and Sabine/Chorus in (*Die Fledermaus*).



SHUYI LI, soprano, from Beijing, China, is a first-year DMA student and Teaching Fellow at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Carol Wilson. Ms. Li earned her master's degree in vocal performance from Indiana University and her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Eastman School of Music and Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing. Most recently Ms. Li has performed the roles of Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with UNT Opera. Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*), Suor Genovieffa / Una conversa (*Suor Angelica*) with Bay View Music Festival. Kate (*The Pirates of Penzance*) with Cedar Rapids Opera and Cupid (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. Her other credits include Lizzie (*Goblin Market*) with Eastman Opera Theater, Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Beijing Concert Hall. Ms. Li has also performed scenes as the roles of Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Flaminia (*Il mondo della luna*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Musetta (*La bohème*), and Despina (*Così fan tutte*).

Upcoming roles include Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*) with UNT Opera and Amahl (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) with Music On Site, Inc.



SPENCER SIMPSON, tenor, is originally from Frederick, Maryland but is currently located in the DFW. He earned a Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of North Texas in May of 2023, where he is currently studying with Molly Fillmore, in pursuance of a Graduate Artist Certificate in Voice Performance. Prior to his MM, Spencer received a Bachelor of Music in Applied Music – Voice from the University of Delaware, where he studied with Dr. Blake Smith. Recent operatic roles include Jeník (*The Bartered Bride*), Laurie (*Little Women: The Broadway Musical*), Don Basilio (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Steve (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), as well as one of the Trio in *Trouble in Tahiti*. Spencer also sings concert repertoire, and recently performed the role of Uriel in Haydn's *The Creation*. Spencer currently works with groups like Verdigris Ensemble and Orpheus Chamber Singers and teaches private lessons through his own studio and Dallas ISD. Internationally, he has travelled to countries such as Czechia, Croatia, and France for solo and choral performances.



TYLER WARWAS, tenor, is based in Denton, TX, recently he has sung the role of Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with Varna International Music Academy. In the coming months, he will sing the role of Garcia (*Notes on Viardot*) with Music on Site, Dr. Blind (*Die Fledermaus*) with UNT Opera and will be making his debut in directing by Assistant Directing Mazzoli's *Proving Up* with UNT Opera. Currently, Mr. Warwas is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance at the University of North Texas and studies voice under the direction of Dr. Carol Wilson.



YONGHYUN KIM, baritone, from South Korea, is a third-year DMA student studying under Stephen Morscheck. Previous credits include Marcello (*La bohème*), Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*), Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Peter (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Escamillo (*Carmen*) and Il Conte di Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Upcoming performances at UNT include Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Falke (*Die Fledermaus*), and "Pa" Zegner (*Proving Up*). He is a graduate of Seoul National University (BM) and Manhattan School of Music (MM) where he studied with James Morris. He trained at the Accademia AMO of the Teatro Coccia di Novara in Italy and made his Italian Opera debut. He made his operatic debut in Korea at the Sejong Grand Theater in 2021. He won the UNT concerto competition (2022), Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition (2023), and AIMS Vocal Competition (2024). He participated in the Aspen Music Festival as a fellowship singer with a full scholarship and recently attended in the American Institute of Musical Studies program where he performed as Scarpia (*Tosca*) in the Puccini Concert at Musikverein and Valentin (*Faust*) in the Meistersinger Concert at Helmut-List-Halle in Graz, Austria.



YUHUI YANG, soprano, from Shanghai, China, is a third-year DMA student studying voice performance with Molly Fillmore at University of North Texas. She received her bachelor's degree at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and a master's degree and Professional study certificate from the Manhattan School of Music. Previous credits include *Manuelita* (*Pepito*, by Offenbach) with Dallas Opera in both in the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 seasons; the title role in (*Cendrillon*), Frasquita (*Carmen*), and Barbarina (*Le nozze di Figaro*) with UNT Opera; Cupid (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) with Manhattan School of Music; and in 2023 she played the role of Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*) with Macedonian Opera and Ballet in Skopje, Macedonia. She was the First Runner up at the Madame Rose Palma-Tenser Scholarship competition, and in the summer of 2019, she was featured as a soloist at the "Liederabend" Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe Exchange Program.



ZHIHUI PANG, tenor, originally from China, is currently doing a GAC-Opera program at UNT under Carol Wilson. He was a master's student of voice and graduate assistant at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, under Professor Deanne Meek and music coach Gary Arvin. He studied journalism and communication at Renmin University of China for his undergraduate program. His operatic experience includes Prunier (*La Rondine*) with Indiana University, Liberto (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*) with Indiana University, the Governor (*Candide*) with Indiana University, Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) with Opera Lucca, Don José (*Carmen*) with Chicago Summer Opera, Ruggero (*La Rondine*) with UNT Opera and Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Opera Bastide. He has performed leading roles in opera scenes from *Faust*, *La fille du regiment* and *La Traviata*. He was the winner of Verdi Award of 2023 Orpheus Vocal Competition student group and finalist of UNT Concerto Competition 2024. He was the tenor soloist of *Pulcinella* by Stravinsky with

Lewisville Lake Symphony. For the upcoming season, he will perform Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*) with UNT Opera and Don Ottavio of (*Don Giovanni*) with Music On Site.

CHORUS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



BENJAMIN BASSETT, baritone, is an excellent and well-rounded musician from Katy, Texas studying to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas in performance and studies with Professor William Joyner. Featured works Benjamin has been involved in are as follows: Chorus (*La bohème*) at Fort Worth Opera, Le Surintendant & chorus (*Cendrillon*), Crébillon & chorus (*La Rondine*), The Phantom (*The Phantom of the Opera*), and Frank (*Die Fledermaus*). He has also received some accolades throughout the start of his career such as: 2nd place in the DFW NATS competition in classical singing in 2023, 5th place in the DFW NATS competition in musical theater.



CIAN SHERIDAN, tenor, is a first-year history major from Orange, California, who studies voice under UNT Teaching Fellow, Chandler Head. Cian has performed in various operas throughout high school such as *Die Fledermaus* with Chapman/OCSA Opera and *La fille du régiment* with the SOKA Performing Arts Center.



COLIN BUSCH-KENNEDY, bass-baritone, is a 4th semester vocal performance major from Plano, Texas. He is studying voice performance with Stephen Morscheck and sings with the UNT A Cappella choir led by Allen Hightower. In the fall of 2023, Colin achieved 3rd place in the TEXOMA NATS competition inside of the classical category and was invited to compete in the National Auditions. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Caricone and Chorus (*Die Fledermaus*) and The Sodbuster (*Proving Up*).



ELEANOR WILLIAMS, mezzo-soprano, is a 4th year vocal performance major from Round Rock, Texas majoring in vocal performance under Mary Mills. Last spring at UNT Opera, she performed the role of Bianca/Gabriella (*La Rondine*). Other past operatic engagements with UNT include the role of 5th Spirit (*Cendrillon*) and chorus (*Le nozze di Figaro*). This upcoming season, alongside performing in the chorus (*Così fan tutte*), she will perform as Hermione (*Die Fledermaus*). This past summer, Eleanor had the opportunity to perform at the Lotte Lehmann Academy, a summer opera training program located in Perleberg, Germany under a full scholarship.



JOSHUA LAPRADE, bass-baritone, is a sophomore from Katy, Texas, studying vocal performance under Jeffrey Snider. He is a proud holder of Mu Phi Epsilon Vocal Scholarship, Frank McKinley Choral Scholarship, and UNT Excellence-Scrappy Scholarship. Joshua is a member of the A Cappella choir, and his past roles include Bouquet (*Phantom of the Opera*). His upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Murray and chorus (*Die Fledermaus*) and chorus (*Così fan tutte*).



KAYLA MARIE FLORES, soprano, is a third-year vocal performance major from Brownsville, Texas, studying under the guidance of Nereida García. She sings with the UNT A Cappella choir, and this year marks her debut with UNT Opera as a member of the chorus in *Così fan tutte*.



LAUREN ABELL, soprano, is a junior from Grapevine, Texas studying vocal performance and music education. Her most recent roles include Cinderella (*Into the Woods*) with In The Wings Drama, Lily St Regis (*Annie*) with Beacon Productions, Alice Beineke (*Addams Family*) with Stand Performing Arts, and Peggy (*Godspell*) with the Artisan Center Theater. Lauren studies voice with Carol Wilson.



MADDIE FROST, mezzo-soprano, is a third-year undergrad from Texarkana, Texas, studying Vocal Performance with Jeffrey Snider. This is Maddie's first year with UNT Opera, debuting as a member of the chorus in *Così fan tutte*.



MARYN WEST, soprano, is a junior from Houston, Texas studying voice at the University of North Texas with Carol Wilson. Maryn is a past finalist in the Schmidt Undergraduate Vocal Competition as well as a semi-finalist in the UNT Concerto Competition, and recently placed 5th in her division at the Texoma NATS competition. Recent roles include Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*) at Varna International Music Academy and the Sandman (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with UNT Opera. Upcoming roles include Desirée and Voice Student (*Notes on Viardot*) with Music On Site, Inc. and Littler Zegner Daughter (*Proving Up*) with UNT Opera. Maryn is a recipient of the UNT Undergraduate Choral Performance Award Scholarship, as well as the Woodlands Pavilion Partners Fine Arts Scholarship.



MASON CLARKSON, tenor, is a sophomore from Magnolia, Texas, studying Music Education and Vocal Performance with William Joyner. This is Mason's first year involved in the UNT opera. Upcoming roles include chorus and props coordinator (*Così fan tutte*), chorus and Rasmusin (*Die Fledermaus*), and Assistant Stage Manager (*Proving Up*). Mason is the recipient of the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Scholarship and the Texas Master Chorale Scholarship, as well as many UNT academic and music scholarships.



RACHEL CUNNINGHAM, soprano, is a sophomore from Houston, TX studying Vocal Performance under the tutelage of Mary Mills. This past summer, she was a part of the month-long Opera in Concert in Italy program. While there, she performed in scenes from *Don Pasquale* and *L'elisir d'amore* as Norina and Adina respectively. For this UNT Opera season, Rachel will be in the chorus of *Così fan tutte* and a member of the stage management team for *Die Fledermaus* in the spring semester. Rachel is a member of the UNT A Cappella choir.



RAMERO VARGAS, tenor, is a junior from Cedar Creek, Texas studying voice performance and music education with Mark Tempesta. This summer he attended Opera In Concert - a summer program - located in Urbino, Italy. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Dr. Blind (*Die Fledermaus*) and chorus (*Così fan tutte*).



RIS KEMP, mezzo-soprano, is in their third year of their vocal performance degree at the University of North Texas. Hailing from Deer Park, Texas, they study with Nereida García and currently sing with the UNT A Cappella Choir. They are a recipient of the UNT President's Honors Scholarship, and recently they were a finalist in the second-year treble division at NATS. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Sylvia (*Die Fledermaus*), chorus (*Die Fledermaus*), chorus (*Così fan tutte*), and an understudy for Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*).



VICTORIA CERDA, soprano, from Houston, Texas, is a junior studying vocal performance under Mary Mills. Her past opera chorus works include *Pirates of Penzance* with Houston Grand Opera's Art of Opera Program and *Tosca* with UNT's University Singers. Victoria is currently a dedicated member of several UNT ensembles, including A Cappella and Vox Aquilae. Her upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Felicita and Chorus (*Die Fledermaus*) in the Spring.