



University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.
Lyric Theater - Murchison Performing Arts Center

University of North Texas Opera Theatre presents

Die Fledermaus

Jonathan Eaton, director

Stephen Mulligan, guest conductor

Die Fledermaus (1874) Johann Strauss II
(1825–1899)

Sung in German with English dialogue and supertitles

Libretto by Karl Haffner and Richard Genée

After a French vaudeville play by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

Program three hundred fifty-one of the 2024–2025 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

Synopsis

written by Sara Foshée

Act I: At the house of Gabriel and Rosalinde von Eisenstein

Gabriel von Eisenstein is in hot water; he's been sentenced to a short jail term for insulting an official. Before he heads off to the slammer, his friend, Dr. Falke, persuades him to attend a fancy ball hosted by Prince Orlofsky. Why? Because, unbeknownst to Eisenstein, Falke has a fantastic revenge plan up his sleeve! Turns out, Eisenstein once played a prank on Falke, leaving him drunk and passed out in the middle of town dressed as a bat! Now, it's time for payback! Meanwhile, Eisenstein's wife, Rosalinde, has her own plans with a certain operatic tenor, and her maid Adele is scheming to get some time off to attend the ball too.

-INTERMISSION-

Act II: At the villa of Prince Orlofsky

At the ball, Eisenstein flirts shamelessly with a mysterious Hungarian countess, who is actually his wife Rosalinde in disguise. Adele, also in disguise, is enjoying the high life, pretending to be a famous actress. Prince Orlofsky, who is constantly bored, finds amusement in the chaos unfolding. Eisenstein tries to seduce "the countess" with a pocket watch, completely unaware that it's his wife. Everyone is tipsy, nobody knows who's who, and Falke is loving every minute of his elaborate revenge plot.

-INTERMISSION-

Act III: At the city jail

The next morning, at the jail, the drunken jailer, Frosch, is dealing with a series of confused and hungover guests who are gradually realizing the extent of their antics the previous night. Eisenstein finally shows up, trying to make sense of why his pocket watch is missing and how he ended up in such a mess. Rosalinde reveals her true identity and confronts Eisenstein with the evidence of his flirtations. Falke's plan is revealed, and everyone has a good laugh at Eisenstein's expense. The whole gang decides that the best way to deal with the aftermath of this imbroglio is to drink some more and blame everything on the champagne.

Soloists

Dramatis Personae	Voice type	Performer
Gabriel von Eisenstein <i>Rosalinde's husband</i>	tenor	Cecil Garrison
Rosalinde <i>Eisenstein's wife</i>	soprano	Chandlar Head
Adele <i>Rosalinde's maid</i>	soprano	Yuhui Yang
Alfred <i>an opera singer, Rosalinde's lover</i>	tenor	Rudy Polk
Dr. Falke <i>a notary, Eisenstein's friend</i>	baritone	Isaac Carlin
Prince Orlofsky <i>a Russian prince, Falke's benefactor</i>	mezzo-soprano	Qingya Ding
Ida <i>Adele's sister</i>	soprano	Jae Park
Frank <i>the prison warden</i>	baritone	Colman Scheibmeir
Dr. Blind <i>Eisenstein's lawyer</i>	tenor	Ramero Vargas
Frosch <i>a jailer</i>	spoken role	Christopher Gray
Ivan <i>Orlofsky's valet</i>	spoken role	Mason Clarkson

Understudies:

Sojung Lim (Adele), Ris Kemp (Orlofsky)

Opera Chorus Personnel

Soprano

Autumn Forgey
Christen Caldwell
Christina Lopez
Erica Menasco
Julianna Carden
Victoria Cerda
Xiaolinglong Wang

Alto

Abigail Bahng
Dongxu Ding
Eleanor Williams
Qihang Lu
Ris Kemp
Sara Foshée

Tenor

Cian Sheridan
David Ferguson
Kun Zhang
Mason Clarkson
Ramero Vargas
Tyler Warwas

Bass

Benjamin Bassett
Christopher Gray
Colin Busch-Kennedy
Colman Scheibmeir
Joshua LaPrade

Opera Orchestra Personnel

Violin I

Marlon Barrios
Ethan Dunn
Oscar Mata
Isaiah Vargas
Yuma Okada
Julia Oh

Violin II

Jiwon Lee
Janicesta Browne
Charlotte Reid
Dylan Garcia
Evan Collazos
Zakkary Diserens

Viola

Samuel Yi
Anthony Brooks
Angel de Hoyos
Breanna Norton
Nya Coleman

Cello

Noah Sendir
Griffin Jones
Aminah Ma
Mateo Jones
Chase Teague
Nila Senthilkumar
Akira Lim
Olivia Jenkins

Bass

Zach Seymour
Lillian Holder
Sara Nell Chase
Alain Mpinda

Harp

Eliza Fichialos

Flute/Piccolo

Josh Diaz
Michael Salm

Oboe

Ben Yoder
Haydee Norris

Clarinet

Allyson Verret
Meaghan O'Connor

Bassoon

Fiona Theriault
James Smelley

Trumpet

Ryn Jenkins
Elaina Garza

Horn

Trampus Marek
Jackson Dillard
Caleb Harold
Abigail D'Acunto

Trombone

Britton Fugazzi
Jayeon Lee

Bass Trombone

Jaden Bullock

Timpani

Paul Martini

Percussion

Sam Fothergill
Randy Vrana
Devin Brown

Artistic Team

Stage Director..... Jonathan Eaton
Conductor..... Stephen Mulligan
Music Director.....Stephanie Rhodes Russell
Vocal Coach/Chorusmaster.....Sharon Bjorndal Lavery
Assistant Chorusmaster.....Kathryn Davidson
Scenic Designer..... Donna Marquet
Costume Designer..... Michael Robinson
Lighting Designer..... Elijah Reed
Make-up Designer..... Diane Tiscareño
Assistant Director.....Maryn West
Collaborative Pianists..... Joohee Jeong, Yu-Hsuan Lu

Production Team

Production Manager..... Julie Hohman
Resident Stage Manager..... Sorrel McCarthy
Production Stage Manager..... Madison Frost
Assistant Stage Managers..... Lauren Abell, Rachel Cunningham,
Lauren Salazar
Supertitles..... Genevieve Cardos

Biographies (Artistic Team)

Stephen Mulligan (Conductor) has served as Resident Conductor with the Cincinnati Opera, Associate Conductor with the Atlanta Symphony, and Dudamel Conducting Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. 2024-25 season highlights include conducting debuts with Ensemble MusikFabrik, the Filarmonica Transilvania, Junges Sinfonie Orchester Wetzlar, the Royal Danish Opera Academy, and at the Momentum Festival Berlin, alongside return engagements as a guest conductor at the University of North Texas Opera and as an assistant conductor with the New York Philharmonic. As a composer, Stephen will present a new work with Ensemble MusikFabrik at their studio in Cologne and begin a collaboration with percussionist David Moliner and Universal Edition, culminating in the premiere of a new work at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg in January 2026.

A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Stephen debuted on the New York Philharmonic's Sound ON Series in 2022 and their 65th Street Session Series in 2023. In demand as a guest conductor, Stephen has led performances with the Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, San Antonio Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, and Virginia Symphony.

Stephen has assisted, prepared stage works, and served as second conductor for many of the world's top conductors, including Marin Alsop, Karina Canellakis, Gustavo Dudamel, James Gaffigan, Edward Gardner, Manfred Honeck, Jakub Hrůša, Susanna Mälkki, Zubin Mehta, Ludovic Morlot, Peter Oundjian, Matthias Pintscher, David Robertson, Sir Donald Runnicles, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Leonard Slatkin, Robert Spano, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Jaap van Zweden.

As a Dudamel Conducting Fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Stephen stepped in for Gustavo Dudamel on short notice to conduct an all-Beethoven program and led other notable performances, including Stravinsky's complete *L'Histoire du Soldat* and an All-Ravel Toyota Symphonies for Youth Concert. During his first season as Associate Conductor with the Atlanta Symphony, Stephen stepped in for three classical subscription programs over six weeks to critical acclaim.

A native of Baltimore, Stephen Mulligan began his violin studies with his father, Gregory, and continued with Kyung Yu at Yale University. His conducting teachers include Gustav Meier at the Peabody Institute, Robert Spano at the Aspen Music Festival, and Arturo Tamayo at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana. He has a degree in composition under Jörg Widmann from the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin.

Stephen Mulligan is represented worldwide by Marianne Schmocker Artists New York and Munich.

Jonathan Eaton (Stage Director) serves UNT as Director of Opera and the Winspear Chair in Opera Studies. His work as a stage director has been seen in North America at many opera companies, including Chicago Lyric, San Francisco Opera, Philadelphia Opera, New York City Opera (with productions broadcast nationwide on "Great Performances Live from Lincoln Center"), Indianapolis, Memphis and Syracuse operas, the Santa Fe and Spoleto festivals, the Canadian Opera, Vancouver Opera, and here in Texas at Dallas Opera. In Europe he has directed at The Royal Opera Covent Garden, the English, Welsh and Dutch national operas, the operas of Lyons, Nantes and Nancy, and several German opera houses, including Hannover, Bielefeld, Dessau, Würzburg and Bochum. He led !SING for Ruhr 2010, Cultural Capital of Europe, with a million singers in 53 cities singing 500 concerts, culminating in the world's largest staged concert with 58,000 singers in a soccer stadium, televised by WDR and broadcast across Europe. He served for 21 years as Artistic Director of Pittsburgh Festival Opera, where he directed more than forty operas, including their first Ring cycle with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and a string of new works he commissioned under the rubric Music that Matters. These include an eco-opera inspired by Rachel Carson, and a jazz/gospel opera addressing issues of racial tension. Mr. Eaton is a celebrated interpreter of the works of Kurt Weill with several British and American premieres of Weill's works to his credit, including *Der Protagonist*, *Der Tsar läßt sich photographieren*, *Der Silbersee*, *Royal Palace* and *Die Bürgschaft*.

Mr. Eaton has also held professorships at CCM in Cincinnati, Carnegie Mellon University and Cleveland Institute of Music.

Stephanie Rhodes Russell (Music Director) 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.

Sharon Bjorndal Lavery (Vocal Coach/Chorusmaster) 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 (Assistant Chorusmaster) 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.

Maryn West (Assistant Director) 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.

Maddie Frost (Stage Manager) is a third-year undergraduate 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*.

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 Abell (Assistant Stage Manager) 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.

Rachel Cunningham (Assistant Stage Manager) 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.

Lauren Salazar (Assistant Stage Manager) 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 Opera Bastide, and this fall will sing as Despina (*Così fan tutte*) with UNT Opera Theatre.

Genevieve Cardos (Supertitles) is originally from The Gambia. She earned a BA in Music at Spelman College and MM at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she was a Graduate Teaching Assistant. She is currently a Teaching Fellow at UNT Denton, in her second year as a DMA resident student in vocal performance, studying with Jennifer Lane. Genevieve has understudied as the "mother role" twice at UNT, first as Madame de la Haltière (*Cendrillon*) and then as Gertrud (*Hänsel und Gretel*). She has also performed as The Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), Aunt Cecilia (*Little Women*) and was a chambermaid in *Don Pasquale*, while at University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Other previous roles include Angelina (*Trial by Jury*) by Gilbert & Sullivan. She has been featured in Arts After Dark in Eugene, Oregon, solo performances at 2015 Spelman/Morehouse College Glee Club Christmas Carol Concert, A Night of Soloists with Atlanta University Centre Orchestra, and recital performances at Peachtree Road Lutheran Church in Atlanta Georgia. Upcoming roles include Taller Zegner Daughter (*Proving Up*) with UNT Opera.

Biographies (Soloists, in Alphabetical Order)

Cecil Garrison (Eisenstein) is a 3rd year DMA student from Farmington, New Mexico studying with Jeffrey Snider. At UNT he has played the role of Die Hexe in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Spoletta in *Tosca*, Old Martin in *That Hellbound Train* (2024), and Don José in *Carmen* (2023). His undergraduate studies took place at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and he received his MM from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he performed as Giles Corey in their 2022 production of Robert Ward's *The Crucible*.

Chandler Head (Rosalinde) is a Teaching Fellow and doctoral student at the University of North Texas studying with Carol Wilson. Chandler received her Bachelor of Music from Eastern New Mexico University; Master of Music from Texas Tech University and she also is a recipient of the Winspear and Slator Opera scholarships. Her featured roles include, Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*), Jo March (*Little Women the Musical*), Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*). Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*). Her oratorio work includes *Mozart Requiem*, *Vivaldi Gloria*, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, selections from *Elijah* and tours in Spain, Italy, London and Paris. Chandler has also performed as a featured soloist with the Texas Tech Symphony Orchestras on multiple occasions. In addition to performing, Chandler enjoys teaching her studio of talented students.

Christopher Gray, (Frosch/Chorus) 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.

Colman Scheibmeir (Frank/Chorus) was born in Denton, TX but grew up in Sherman, TX. He has been singing baritone since the beginning of college. He is a second-year vocal performance major who studies under Jeffrey Snider and is in the University Singers Choir. In the past, he was a member of the Grads Chorus with the Children's Chorus of Greater North Texas, and he was also the choir leader for the youth service at St. Marys Church in Sherman. Colman participated in NATS for the last two years; winning first place in the Oklahoma NATS two years ago. Currently, he is the tenor section leader at John Paul II Parish and recently began a Christmas caroling job with the Uptown Carolers of Dallas. Colman has spent lots of time participating in shows at the local theaters in Sherman, including Joseph (*Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*), Seymour (*Little Shop of Horrors*), and Lionel (*Cinderella*). Colman has received the UNT Excellence Scholarship along with the Bridether Memorial Choir Scholarship. His upcoming roles with UNT opera include Frank (*Die Fledermaus*) and chorus (*Così fan tutte*).

Isaac Carlin (Falke) is a second-year doctoral candidate from Omaha, Nebraska, studying under the tutelage of Stephen Morscheck. Isaac 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. This season with UNT Opera he will perform as Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Falke (*Die Fledermaus*), and Mr. Johannes "Pa" Zegner (*Proving Up*).

Jae Park, (Ida) a Houston-native soprano, is a graduate student under the tutelage of Dr. Carol Wilson at the University of North Texas. This season, Park has recently appeared as Maguelonne in Opera Arlington's production of Viardot's *Cendrillon*. Recently, she performed as the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and premiered the role of Laura in Diogo Carvalho's new opera, *The Girl from Ipanema*, at the Vienna Summer Music Festival. Her other notable roles include the Dew Fairy and Sandman in Humperdinck's *Hänsel and Gretel* and Papagena in *The Magic Flute* with Luke Housner's Summer Opera Workshop. In addition to her onstage performances, Park has also been active in media and film projects throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Mason Clarkson (Ivan/Rasmusin/Chorus) 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.

Qingya Ding, (Prince Orlofsky) from Yuanpin, China, is a first-year doctoral candidate at University of North Texas, studying voice performance with Stephen Morscheck. Qingya performed in the China-Europe Humanities and Arts Education Forum Closing Concert, the New Year Concert at Renmin University, and the New Year Concert in Haidian District, Beijing. She also won First Prize at the 7th Ukraine "Art Treasure" International Vocal Music Competition and The Gold Prize in the Osaka International Art Festival in Japan. Past roles include Principessa (*Suor Angelica*) with Saluzzo Opera Academy, Maman (*L'enfant et les sortilèges*), and Dorothee (*Cendrillon*) with Manhattan School of Music. Upcoming roles include Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*) with UNT Opera, and Madame de la Haltière (*Cendrillon*) with Berlin Opera Academy.

Ramero Vargas (Dr. Blind/Chorus) 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 (Prince Orlofsky US, Sylvia/Chorus) 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*).

Rudy Polk (Alfred) is a tenor vocalist from Clinton, Mississippi 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 from *(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. Rudy will be performing as Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*) with UNT Opera next semester, and he will continue to perform recitals around Texas this coming year.

Sojung Lim, (Adele US) from South Korea, is a third-year doctoral student in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy at the University of North Texas studying under Daniel Bubeck. Upcoming roles include the understudy of Adele (*Die Fledermaus*) with UNT Opera. Past roles include Yvette/Georgette (*La Rondine*) and understudy of La fée (*Cendrillon*) at UNT, Coco and 2nd Policewoman (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) at Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and Sojung (*Isolation*) in the pastiche opera film directed by Ann Baltz. She also performed as 1st Knabe (*Die Zauberflöte*) at Seoul National University Opera where she earned her Bachelor of Music, and "VII. Enfant" as the title role of Emilie (*Emilie* by Kaija Saariaho) at Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University where she received her Master of Music degree. In 2024, Sojung won the Charleston International Music Competition. She is the recipient of both the TGS Robert B. Toulouse Scholarship and the Porter-Evans Scholarship.

Yuhui Yang, (Adele) 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 Palmal-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.

Biographies (Chorus, in Alphabetical Order)

Abigail Bahng, mezzo-soprano, is a third year from Katy, Texas, and is currently studying Vocal Performance with Mary Mills and is currently a member of both the UNT A Cappella choir and Vox Aquilae. This is her second year in the UNT Opera program, her previous UNT Opera work includes Stage Manager (*Cendrillon*) and Echo (*Hänsel und Gretel*). Other recent works include playing the role of Hänsel in VIMA's *Hänsel und Gretel*. This season with UNT Opera she will be in the chorus for *Die Fledermaus*, as well as Stage Manager for the production of *Proving Up*. This upcoming summer she will be performing the title role in Handel's *Silla* at The Chicago Summer Opera.

Autumn Forgey, soprano, is a sophomore from Austin, Texas studying music education with Mary Mills-Gertken. This is Autumn's first year involved in the UNT opera and upcoming roles include chorus (*Die Fledermaus*) and spotlight operator (*Proving Up*). Autumn is a recipient of the Spicewood Arts Alumni Scholarship, the UNT Foundation Presidential Scholarship, the UNT Academic Excellence in Texas Scholarship, and the UNT College of Music Competitive Merit Scholarship.

Ben 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.

Christen M. Caldwell, soprano, 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 Lopez is a soprano 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 *Cendrillon* in the fairy ensemble and first Knaben from *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 from *Die Fledermaus*.

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, (Caricone/Chorus) 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*).

David Ferguson, tenor, from Conroe, Texas, is currently a second-year master's student at the University of North Texas studying with Stephan Morscheck. This season's engagements include tenor soloist in Vox Aquilae's all Bach program, tenor soloist in the Mozart Requiem with St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, a featured performer in the St. Thomas Aquinas New Year's Celebration Chamber Concert and finishing his exciting season as Miles Zegner in Missy Mazzoli's *Proving Up*. David's previous engagements on the operatic stage include Le Doyen de la Faculte (*Cendrillon*), Young Martin (premiere of *That Hell-bound Train*), Chorus (*The Wreckers*) with Houston Grand Opera, The Mayor (*Albert Herring*), Orpheus (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), Dandy (*The Ballad of Baby Doe*), and Chorus (*La Bohème*) with the Mendelssohn Hochschule Oper. David's schooling includes a Bachelor of Music in voice performance at the University of Houston, and an exchange semester at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater „Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy“ Leipzig, Germany. He is the recipient of The Gilman Foundation Scholarship, The COM Beasley Vocal Scholarship, and the COM Competitive Merit 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*), Charlottte (*Werther*), and Marthe (*Faust*). Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*) and chorus (*Die Fledermaus*).

Eleanor Williams, (Hermine/Chorus) 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.

Erica Menasco, (Melanie/Chorus) soprano, is a Venezuelan-American Soprano from Cypress, Texas and studies with Dr. Jeffrey Snider. She is a Senior Vocal Performance major at the University of North Texas (UNT) and is currently in two ensembles, Camerata and University Singers. While enrolled at UNT, Erica performed in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* by Linda Woolverton, organized by Theater Denton in December of 2022 and performed in *Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet, organized by UNT Opera in November of 2023. In February of 2024, she performed in the chorus and as "A voice" in *La Rondine* by Giacomo Puccini, organized by UNT Opera and performed with University Singers as the chorus for *Tosca* also by Giacomo Puccini, coordinated by the UNT College of Music. She also served as the stage manager with UNT Opera for *Hänsel und Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck in April of 2024.

Joshua LaPrade, (Murray/Chorus) 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*).

Julianna Carden, soprano, is a sophomore from McKinney, Texas studying Music Education and Vocal Performance with Mary Mills. This is Julianna's first year with UNT opera. Upcoming roles include chorus (*Die Fledermaus*). Julianna was a semifinalist at the 2023 Texoma NATS competition and is a recipient of the UNT Academic Excellence Scholarship.

Kun Zhang, (Ali-Rey/Chorus) tenor, from China, is a first-year doctoral candidate at the University of North Texas studying under the tutelage of William Joyner. He received his bachelor's degree from the Henan Polytechnic University, and his master's degree from the University of Szeged in Hungary. In 2023 he performed as a soloist in the Easter Temesi Maria Charity Concert at the Óbudai Társaskör in Budapest, Hungary. Past roles include Qi Jia Jun in the original symphonic choral drama *Hero Qui Jiguang* at Henan Polytechnic University; Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*, and Don José (*Carmen*) at the University of Szeged. Upcoming roles include Miles Zegner (*Proving Up*) with UNT Opera.

Qihang Lu, countertenor, is a second-year master's student from China studying voice performance with Jennifer Lane. He has performed as an Alto with UNT's early music ensemble Vox Aquilae. Upcoming performances include chorus in (*Die Fledermaus*) with UNT Opera.

Sara Foshée, (Sabine/Chorus) 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*).

Tonique Brown, (Faustine/Chorus) soprano, from Nassau, Bahamas, is a first-year master's student in vocal performance at UNT, studying under Jennifer Lane. She graduated from the University of The Bahamas at the top of her class, earning her undergraduate degrees in vocal performance and music education. Tonique has a versatile performance background, having sung diverse repertoire from classical and contemporary genres. Her stage presence and acting skills were honed as a member of The Bahamas National Youth Choir, a prestigious show choir that broadened her performance abilities. Tonique's experience is international, including her performances at the Festival de Confolens in France (2022), Covent Church at Covent Garden in London (2024), and Carnegie Hall in New York (2022), just to name a few. Her academic achievements have been recognized with the TGS Externally Funded Graduate Student Scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year. Though new to the opera stage, she brings a dynamic energy, combining classical technique with versatile musicianship honed through a diverse range of 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.

Victoria Cerda, (Felicita/Chorus) 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.

Xiaolinglong Wang, soprano, hailing from China, Xiaolinglong is a first-year DMA student at the University of North Texas studying voice performance with Jennifer Lane. She received her master's degree from the Longy School of Music Bard College where she studied with Karyl Ryczek. In August 2019 she attended the Universal Artists Festival at New England Conservatory where she performed in the mini opera *Sammy and Remmy* and received the Honorable Mention Award in the festival competition. In 2022 she performed in the Vienna Golden Hall Invitational Competition and won the gold medal in the vocal aria group. At UNT, she is the recipient of the TGS Academic Achievement Scholarship and will sing in the chorus for UNT Opera's production of *Die Fledermaus*. Recent roles include Micaëla (*Carmen*), and Water (*The Little Prince*).