



UNT OPERA
presents
Georges Bizet's (1838–75)
CARMEN (1875)

Jonathan Eaton, new chamber version

Robert Frankenberry, orchestration

Jonathan Eaton, director

Willem van Schalkwyk, conductor

Stephanie Rhodes Russell, music director/coach

Wednesday, April 19 – Saturday, April 22, 2023

7:30 pm

Lyric Theater

Murchison Performing Arts Center

SPECIAL THANKS

**Opera Scholarship Patrons who support our top vocal talent
and help pave the way for their success:**

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SYNOPSIS AND DIRECTOR'S NOTES

UNT Opera brings to life an original reworking of Georges Bizet's timeless masterpiece in a condensed, action-packed production.

Set in Seville, Spain, *Carmen* tells the story of Don José, a military officer who abandons his girlfriend Micaëla along with his military career to win the love of Carmen, a fiery, bold Roma dancer, and part of a gang of smugglers. After a few months of passion with José, however, Carmen tires of him and falls for Escamillo the bullfighter. Blinded by jealousy and rage, José takes revenge on Carmen...

This version of *Carmen* extracts the essence of the tragic opera and presents the work as a fast-paced, intimate music drama. It also focuses on the role of destiny in the Roma world, and on the Roma notion that once a fate is foretold, it cannot be prevented.

The opera has been re-orchestrated for something akin to a flamenco band to add a special flare to the Spanish-inspired music.

The opera is performed in two acts with one fifteen minute intermission.

THE CARMEN TOUR - \$5 a ticket!

Please join us and support a great new venture! And pass the word to friends and family! We need your help in making this wonderful new project an ongoing reality.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Richard and Enika Schulze Family Foundation, two casts of *Carmen* will be touring regionally in May, under the banner Next Generation Opera at UNT, one cast singing the opera in Spanish, one in English. As a fan of UNT Opera you can purchase tickets for these performances for only \$5 each, quoting the code FANS to any of the box offices of the theaters we are playing in. These are:

May 13: Arlington ISD Performing & Visual Art Center: Both Casts (two performances on the same day), 3:30 in Spanish, 7:30 in English

May 18, 19, 20 & 21 venue to be determined: Thursday and Saturday in English at 7:30; Friday in Spanish at 7:30, and Sunday (matinee) in Spanish at 3:00

May 25, 26: Irving Art Center: Thursday in Spanish, Friday in English, both at 7:30

May 27, 28: Grandscape outdoor stage: Saturday in Spanish and Sunday in English, both at 8:00pm

CASTS**APRIL 19 & 21****APRIL 20 & 22**

Carmen, a gypsy girl

Hilary Grace Taylor Lauren Salazar

Don José, corporal of
Dragoons

Lwazi Hlati Cecil Garrison

Escamillo, toreador

Yonghyun Kim Isaac Carlin

Micaëla, a village maiden

Taylor Fenner Cherisse Williams

Zuniga, lieutenant of Dragoons

Avery Sanderlin Matthew Dexter

Moralès, corporal of Dragoons

Zachary Rohwer Hawkins Burns

Frasquita, companion of
Carmen

Hyejin Lee Yuhui Yang

Mercédès, companion of
Carmen

Fujia Wan Samantha Schmitz

Le Dancaïre, smuggler

Evan Stark Christopher Rodriguez

Le Remendado, smuggler

Jack Forden Raul Gonzalez

Fortune Teller

Sunyoung Kim MiaRose Hanberry

ORCHESTRA

Violin.....Joseph Reding (4/19-4/21); Oscar Morales (4/22)
Flute.....Hyunsu Yoon
Clarinet.....Erick Morales
Bassoon.....Erica Haas
Guitar.....Sergio Hernandez Felix
Double Bass.....Daniel Davidson
Accordion.....Steven Harlos
Piano.....Sara Steele (4/19, 4/20); Jiyoun Oh (4/21, 4/22)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager.....Julie Hohman
Production Stage Manager.....Katelyn Kocher
Assistant Stage Manager..... Brian De Stefano
Assistant Stage Manager..... Madison Juneau
Choreographer.....Antonio Arrebola
Set and Costume Designer.....Danila Korogodsky
Costume Realization.....Michael Robinson, Dallas Costume Shoppe

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

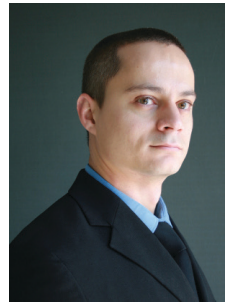
Tour Director..... Katelyn Kocher
Business Consultant..... Rhonda Reger
Marketing Director..... Dexter Purnell
Web Designer..... Diana Gonzales
Marketing Assistant..... Kirsten Haddox

ARTISTIC TEAM

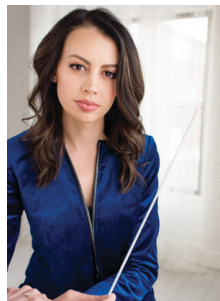
JONATHAN EATON (Stage Director and creator of this version of *Carmen*) serves UNT as director of opera and the Winspear chair in opera studies. His work as a stage director has been seen in North America at many opera companies, including Chicago Lyric, San Francisco Opera, Philadelphia Opera, New York 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 ISING 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.



WILLEM VAN SCHALKWYK (Conductor and Coach) applauded by the *Salt Lake City Tribune* for "maturity beyond his years" and "dizzying technical facility," has concertized throughout the United States, Europe, South America, and Southern Africa - most recently in France and Mexico. Willem regularly returns to his homeland of Namibia for concert appearances, and some notable events include playing the Rachmaninoff Third Piano Concerto and the Tchaikovsky First Piano Concerto with the Namibia National Symphony Orchestra, and presenting a solo recital as part of the National Theatre of Namibia's 25-year anniversary celebrations. As a collaborative artist Willem has performed with instrumentalists from the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago, San Francisco and Utah symphonies, as well as the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. As vocal coach and pianist, Willem has served with companies that include the Santa Fe Opera, Utah Opera, Taos Opera Institute, AIMS program in Austria, Arizona Opera, Opera Fort Collins, and Opera in the Ozarks. From 2014 until 2019, Willem was assistant professor of piano and opera/vocal coaching at the University of Northern Colorado, and joined the University of North Texas faculty in the fall of 2020 as the opera coach.



STEPHANIE RHODES RUSSELL (Director of Music for Opera and Coach for *Carmen*) 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 Festival. Highlights as an assistant conductor include work on two Wagner *Ring* cycles with conductors Philippe Auguin and Donald Runnicles and productions of *Iolanta*, *Eugene Onegin*, and *Queen of Spades* with Emmanuel Villaume and Carlo Rizzi. As founder and Board chair of the non-profit Women's Artistic Leadership Initiative (Women's ALI), she is dedicated to the education and empowerment of young female artists, training them to become future community leaders by equipping them with both leadership skills and business acumen. An alum of the Dallas Opera's Institute for Women Conductors, the Houston Grand Opera Studio and San Francisco's Merola Opera program, she holds degrees in collaborative piano and piano performance from the University of Michigan and Utah State University, respectively, and completed a doctorate in orchestral conducting at the University of Utah



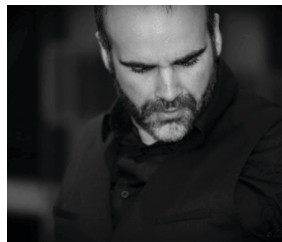
DANILA KOROGODSKY (Set and Costume Designer) comes from St. Petersburg, Russia where he studied at the Leningrad Theater Institute and then worked as a resident designer at the Theater for Young Spectators. After his first show in the United States at HTY Honolulu in 1989, he designed and taught in America for twenty years. For Opera Theater of Pittsburgh, working with Jonathan Eaton, he designed productions of *The Ring*, *Magic Flute*, *A View from the Bridge* and *Lost in the Stars*. He was the head of stage design at California State University, Long Beach, and resident designer at the California Repertory Company. Cal Rep productions include: *Dante Club*, *Knights of the Round Table*, *Lamark*, *Ivona Princess of Burgundia*, *Among the Chosen Few*, *Pilgrims*. Other venues include: *Die Bürgschaft* and *Die Vögel*, Spoleto Festival USA; *Between Two Worlds*, Lyric Opera of Chicago; *Queen of Spades*, Nantes Opera, France; *Uncle Vanya*, Bonn City Theatre, Germany; *Little, Actors Gang*, Los Angeles; *Curlew River*, Japan Society, NY; *Reluctant Dragon*, Minneapolis Children Theater; *Ithaka*, Pittsburgh Playhouse. In 2005 he became an artistic director of Pokoleniy Theater in St. Petersburg. He has directed more than 20 projects in the last 18 years with his company. In 2015 he had a solo exhibit of his work showing at the Bahrushensky State Theater Art Museum in Moscow and had an album of his work published by the museum in cooperation with Theater Pokoleniy. His production of Sophocles' *Antigone* was invited to the Chur Theater Festival in Switzerland in November 2007 as part of a program of the best new European Theater. In autumn 2019 his show "M" based on Fritz Lang's screenplay for his movie "M" toured Switzerland and Germany as did his show "67/871" about the siege of Leningrad, which opened in Berlin in 2016.



ASHLEY H. WHITE (Fight Choreographer) is an award-winning director, fight & intimacy director, and teaching artist, with international credits and nearly two decades of experience. She is a certified intimacy director with IDC Professionals. As an ID, she has worked across the United States, in addition to film & television, where her intimacy coordination work can be seen on Amazon, The CW, Paramount+, among other networks and studios. She is an accomplished fight director and is a certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors. Ashley is a sought-after educator and is the creator of The Cycle of Consent – an approach to building and navigating safe creative spaces. She is the recipient of 5 DFW Critics Forum Awards for Outstanding Direction as well as special recognitions from the Critics Forum for her fight & intimacy work. Ashley is a proud member of SDC, and has received nominations for the SDC Zelda Fischander and SDC Barbara Whitman awards for innovation in directing.



ANTONIO ARREBOLA (Choreographer) began his dance studies at the Conservatorio Superior de Danza in Málaga, where he was trained in flamenco, ballet clásico and clásico español and studied with Susana Lupiáñez, Ricardo Caña, and Valentina Letova. Antonio has been dancing professionally since the age of fifteen. He has danced in many prominent tablaos in Andalucía, such as the Christina Hoyos Flamenco Museum and many more. Antonio has also been recognized on the international scene, elating audiences in The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Italy, Morocco, Canada, the United States and Japan. He worked with the Maria Serrano Company in the show *Flamentango* in Canada; in addition, he has toured in Europe with his own company. He headlined the Dallas Flamenco Festival in 2010, 2012, and 2013 and was featured in the Dallas Flamenco Festival and Ochre House Theater's productions of *Perro y Sangre*, *El Conde Drácula*, *Buñuel Descending* and *Picasso: Matador de Málaga*.



SARA STEELE, pianist, originally from Missouri, is an active collaborative pianist and vocal coach. Ms. Steele has an affinity for opera and is passionate about helping singers achieve excellence. A Presser Award winner, Steele has performed at Carnegie Hall as a winner of the chamber music division of the Semper Pro Musica Competition. Sara has performed with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and adjudicated the Martha Guengerich Piano Festival in Missouri. She is on faculty at the Colorado Vocal Institute, and was on faculty at the Music in the Marche and Brancaloneoni International Music Festival. Ms. Steele is working on both the DMA in collaborative piano and graduate artist certificate in opera coaching at the University of North Texas, where she is a graduate assistant for UNT Opera. In 2022, Sara was the music director for UNT Opera's production of *Trouble in Tahiti*. She holds two master of music degrees, one in collaborative piano and the other in performance and pedagogy, both from Baylor University, and a bachelor's in piano performance from Southwest Baptist University.

JIYOUN OH, pianist, originally from South Korea, is currently working as a graduate teaching assistant and pursuing a DMA in collaborative piano at the University of North Texas, studying with Elvia Puccinelli and Steven Harlos. Ms. Oh was the Oregon State winner of the Music Teachers' National Association (MTNA) Young Artist Piano Competition in 2014 and participated in the MTNA Northwest Division Competition in Idaho. She was the second prize winner in the solo piano competition at Guri Philharmonic Orchestra Competition. She performed at the Buam Art Hall and Music Festivals at Sookmyung Women's University. She has performed in masterclasses with Thomas Hecht, Paul Roberts, Jeffrey Kahane, Pacifica Quartet, and Trio Solisti. She completed the full session of 2016 International Keyboard Institute & Festival in New York. Ms. Oh earned her bachelor's degree in piano performance at Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul, Korea. She completed two master's degrees in collaborative piano and piano performance at Portland State University studying with Chuck Dillard and Julia Lee. During her time there, she served as a GTA pianist for opera, choir, conducting classes, vocal and instrumental lessons, and juries.

SOLOISTS

HAWKINS BURNS, baritone, is a senior from Austin, Texas studying vocal performance with Stephen Morscheck. Hawkins works with churches in the DFW area and often is a featured soloist at The Chapel of the Cross in Dallas. This year Hawkins will perform in the chorus of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and will be featured as Moralès in Bizet's *Carmen* in the spring. Hawkins will pursue a master's in psychology and hopes to do work in music therapy while performing.

ISAAC CARLIN, baritone, is a 2nd year graduate student from Omaha, Nebraska, studying vocal performance with Stephen Austin. Isaac received his undergraduate degree in voice performance from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Isaac was most recently seen performing the role of Junius (*The Rape of Lucretia*) with UNT Opera, and next semester, he will perform the role of Escamillo (*Carmen*), also at UNT. Other recent opera roles include Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Falke (*Die Fledermaus*) with BYU Opera.

MATTHEW DEXTER, bass-baritone, is a third-year vocal performance B.M. student from McKinney, Texas. He is a member of UNT's A Cappella Choir and the Vox Aquilae baroque choir. He was a winner of Youngarts 2020 and performed at the winner's concert in Miami. Last fall, he performed the role of Mícha in *Prodaná nevěsta* with UNT Opera and won 2nd place in the TEXOMA Region NATS Auditions. This summer, he was a vocal fellow in the Spoleto Festival USA Chorus which performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the Lift Every Voice – Jewels of the Black Experience concert, and the premiere of Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels' opera *Omar*, which the *New York Times* called a "sweeping achievement." As a winner in the 2021 TEXOMA Region NATS Auditions Matthew was able to enter the National Association of Teachers of Singing 2022 National Competition and was a finalist in his category. Matthew studies with Stephen Morscheck.

TAYLOR FENNER, soprano, is a 1st year master's student from Brookings, South Dakota and graduate of Augustana University. She is studying vocal performance with Jennifer Lane. This summer, she attended the Berlin Opera Academy at the Joseph Schmidt Musikschule. Recent roles include Ida (*Die Fledermaus*) with Berlin Opera Academy and Countess (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Sophia (*The Ransom of Sophia*), and Celié (*Signor Deluso*) with Augustana Opera Theater. Taylor also sings with the UNT A Cappella Choir. Roles with UNT Opera include Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Micaëla in *Carmen*.

JACK FORDEN, tenor, is originally from Plano, Texas. He is a fourth year vocal performance major studying with Stephen Austin. With UNT Opera, he has performed roles such as Vasek (*The Bartered Bride*), Normanno (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), and Sheldon Segal (*Later the Same Evening*). He has also performed in the UNT Opera chorus in *Don Giovanni*, Mark Blitzstein's *Regina*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and *L'elisir d'amore*. His operatic work outside of UNT includes two productions of *Le nozze di Figaro*, one at the TCU summer opera workshop where he was both Basilio and Curzio and the other with Red River Lyric Opera as just Basilio. Also with Red River Lyric Opera, he has portrayed Tobias (*Sweeney Todd*).

CECIL GARRISON, tenor, is in his first year in UNT's DMA program studying with Stephen F. Austin. His graduate studies were at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and undergraduate studies at the University of New Mexico. Notable past roles include Giles Corey in Robert Ward's *The Crucible* with SMU's Meadows Lyric Theatre, and the Bartender from Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight!* with UNM Opera Theatre. Outside of opera, Cecil is a choral conductor and coach, guest lecturer, oratorio soloist, composer and arranger. Cecil will play Don José in this season's production of *Carmen*.

RAUL GONZALEZ, tenor, is a senior from Puerto Rico studying vocal performance with Jeffrey Snider at the University of North Texas. Gonzalez has previously attended Tarrant County Community College where recent roles include Don Curzio (*Le nozze Di Figaro*) and Peter Pan (*Shrek the Musical*). Gonzalez has received 2nd Place in the NATS Music Theatre TTB as well as Outstanding Performance in the NATS Music Theatre TTB in 2020. Gonzalez has had past experience with piano and violin and has won UIL Solo and Ensembles from 2015–2018. Upcoming roles and jobs are Don Curzio in *Le nozze Di Figaro*, assistant director in *Così fan tutte* at Music On Site Inc., and Remendado in *Carmen* at UNT.

MIAROSE HANBERRY, soprano, is a Dallas-based singer, actress, multi-instrumentalist, voice teacher, model, and songwriter from Orange Grove, Texas. With over 15 years of training and performance experience, MiaRose has been seen in venues ranging from the Moores Opera House in Houston, Texas to the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia. MiaRose was most recently seen as Esmeralda in the Moores Opera Center's production of *The Bartered Bride*, and as Crystal in the University of Houston's new production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. In the summer of 2022, Hanberry was a top-10 semifinalist in the Nina International Solo Voice Competition for Young Voices in Bergen, Norway, as part of the Grieg Festival. In addition to her soaring soprano range and highly-regarded acting, Hanberry is also a skilled pianist, guitarist, and alto-saxophonist. A voice teacher with over 5 years of experience, MiaRose recently received her bachelor of music in vocal performance from the University of Houston's Moores School of Music, graduating with honors. She is currently pursuing her master of music in performance at the University of North Texas in Denton with **TEACHER**.

LWAZI HLATI, tenor, is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, currently doing his graduate artistic certificate at UNT with William Joyner. He earned his bachelor's in vocal performance from Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, South Africa; his performer's diploma and master of music in vocal performance from Southern Methodist University. As one of Johannesburg's most sought-after tenors, he's gained recognition for his performances as Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) and Fenton (*Falstaff*). In 2017 he was selected by the Med Ent company as one of three South African tenors to perform throughout Greece and Turkey for a season of tribute concerts to the world-renowned group Il Divo and Three Tenors. Most recently, he's performed in Bass Hall as Gastone (*La Traviata*), Porgy and Bess with Fort Worth Opera, Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) with SMU as part of his graduate studies, Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) with Opera in the Ozarks, and worked with the Fort Worth Opera's education department putting on children's operas *Hansel and Gretel*, *Stone Soup* and *Frida Kahlo and The Bravest Girl in the World*. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Don José (*Carmen*) and Harold Mitchell (*A Streetcar Named Desire*).

SUNYOUNG KIM, soprano, is a master's student from Seoul, South Korea, studying vocal performance with Daniel Bubeck. She recently earned 4th place in the Adult Treble classical voice DFW area chapter in NATS, April 2022. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Fortune Teller (*Carmen*). In 2018–2019, she participated in a masterclass of Loraine Nubar and Dalton Baldwin in Académie Internationale D'été de Nice, France, and performed at the recital. She is an actor, making her debut in theatre as Grand Duchess (*Les Justes*) in 2013. She has been active in theatre, movie and drama. Ms. Kim holds a bachelor of science in nursing from Ewha Womans University, and a master of music course certificate in vocal performance from Kookmin University.

YONGHYUN KIM, baritone, is a first-year DMA student at University of North Texas under the tutelage of Stephen Morscheck. Previous credits include Marcello (*La bohème*), Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*), Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*). Upcoming performances include Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Escamillo (*Carmen*) at UNT. He had a professional recital in Seoul, Korea with Kumho Asiana Cultural Foundation, and he had ECIC winner's recital at Lincoln Center. He participated in the Aspen Music Festival as a full-scholarship singer and performed in *Les contes d'Hoffman*. He graduated from Manhattan School of Music (master of music) studying with James Morris, and also graduated from Seoul National University (bachelor of music). He recently made his operatic debut in Korea as Dr. Falke from the operetta *Die Fledermaus* at the Sejong Grand Theater.

HYEJIN LEE, soprano, is a third-year DMA vocal performance student from South Korea, studying with Carol Wilson. She did her master's degree at the Arrigo Boito Conservatory of Parma in Italy and the New England Conservatory in Boston. Recent roles include Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*) with Huntington Theatre in Boston and Mimì (*La bohème*) with Politeama Theatre (Politeama Pratese) and Bologna Cultural Arts Center (Circolo Culturale Lirico Bolognese) in Italy. She is in the A Cappella Choir and receives a choir scholarship.

CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ, baritone, is a second-year doctoral student and teaching fellow at the University of North Texas. He is originally from Bakersfield, California and attended California State University, Fresno where he received his bachelor and master of arts in vocal performance and was the inaugural recipient of the Edna Garabedian Vocal Performance Award. He has recently performed the roles of Figaro (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), Sam (*Trouble in Tahiti*), Narciso (*Bless Me, Ultima*) and created the roles Stanton (*State of Jefferson*) and Everybody (*Lucinda y las Flores de la Nochebuena*) under the batons of Thomas Loewenheim and Ryan Murray. He has sung the baritone solos for Ligeti's *Aventures*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, and Fauré's *Requiem* under Garrison Gerard, Cari Earnhart and Dale Fleck. This Fall he will sing Beto (*La Bruja Anam y la Bella Beatrice*) with Diversità Opera Arts Company, Antonio (*Le nozze di Figaro*) with UNT Opera, *Eight Songs for a Mad King* with UNT Nova, and Edgar's Shadow (*Tell Tale Heart*) with Opera Modesto. Christopher is a voice student of Carol Wilson.

ZACHARY ROHWER, baritone, is a junior from Flower Mound, Texas studying voice performance and music education with William Joyner. Roles with UNT Opera include chorus in *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Moralès (Carmen)*.

LAUREN SALAZAR, soprano, is a second year M.M. in voice studying under the tutelage of Carol Wilson. She holds a B.M. in voice performance and a B.S. in public relations from The University of Texas at Austin, as well as a M.S. in hospitality management from University of North Texas. Her previous roles include Gianetta (*The Gondoliers*) with TEXAS Opera, Eula (*TEXAS Outdoor Musical Drama*) with TEXAS Outdoor Musical, Lucia (*The Rape of Lucretia*) and The Girl - Trio (*Trouble in Tahiti*) with UNT Opera, Amahl (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) with Music on Site Inc., Annio (*La clemenza di Tito*) and Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*) with the Butler Opera Center, and Laurey (*Oklahoma!*) with the New Braunfels Theatre Company. This spring she will perform as Carmen (*Carmen*) with UNT Opera.

AVERY SANDERLIN, baritone, is a junior from Houston, Texas studying vocal performance with Carol Wilson. He is currently a member of the UNT A Cappella Choir and Vox Aquilae under the direction of Allen Hightower. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Papageno in the Scenes program, and Zuniga in *Carmen*.

SAMANTHA SCHMITZ, mezzo-soprano, is a first-year master's student from Westphalia, Iowa studying vocal performance with Molly Fillmore. She earned her bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Samantha recently participated in the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar in Weimar, Germany. She was also featured with the Iowa State University Symphony Orchestra as winner of the 2020 University Concerto Competition. Recent roles include Dritte Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), Armeline (*Cendrillon*), Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*), and Public Opinion (*Orpheus in the Underworld*). Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Flower Woman (*A Streetcar Named Desire*) and Mercédès (*Carmen*).

EVAN STARK, baritone, is in the second year of his master's degree at the University of North Texas, studying under Stephen Morscheck. He received his bachelor's degree in vocal performance at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is a recipient of the Moorehead Opera, Dean Hamilton Opera, and the Gordon and Patsy Roe Voice scholarships. Evan's extensive performance history includes Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), Barone Duphol (*La traviata*), Tarquinius (*The Rape of Lucretia*), and Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Conte Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and will finish this season at UNT Opera as Le Dancaïre in Bizet's *Carmen*.

HILARY GRACETAYLOR, mezzo-soprano, is a native of Dallas and is becoming known for her versatility of repertoire and love of contemporary music. Most recently Hilary performed Taller Daughter in Missy Mazzoli's *Proving Up* with Opera Las Vegas and Indiana Elliot in *Mother of Us All* with Chautauqua Opera. For three seasons she was an Education Outreach Young Artist with The Dallas Opera and recently recorded and filmed the role of Sappho in Mark Adamo's *Lysistrata* with Pittsburgh Festival Opera. Hilary holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Texas. With UNT Opera she debuted Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), Desirée Armfeldt (*A Little Night Music*), Madame de Croissy (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), Dritte Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), Martha (*Faust*), Mrs. Jones (*Street Scene*), Regina (*Regina*) and Gertrude Stein (*After Life* by Tom Cipullo) and will return this spring to perform Carmen (*Carmen*). While pursuing her DMA, Hilary served as a teaching fellow in vocal studies at the University of North Texas and is currently an adjunct instructor of voice at Texas Woman's University.

FUJIA WAN, mezzo-soprano, is originally from China and is a second-year DMA voice student in the studio of Jennifer Lane. In 2019, she obtained the master degree in voice performance from Wuhan Conservatory of Music, China. In 2016, she won the silver award of The Asia Music Competition held at Academy of Arts, Berlin. In 2022, she performed the role Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*) in the Scenes Program and Lucretia (understudy, *The Rape of Lucretia*) with UNT Opera. She will perform the role of Mercédès in *Carmen* this year at UNT Opera.

CHERISSE WILLIAMS, soprano, is a doctoral student and graduate assistant at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Carol Wilson. She is from Brooklyn, New York. In performance with UNT Opera, she will perform the role of Micaëla (*Carmen*) this Spring. Last season Ms. Williams sung the role of Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*). Past roles include Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*) and Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*) with Once Upon an Opera, Nannetta (*Falstaff*) with the Midwest Institute of Opera, the Princess (*L'enfant et les Sortilèges*) and Susanna in (*Le nozze di Figaro* scene) with The Manhattan School of Music. Ms. Williams sang the role of Sally Hemings in the world premiere of Dana Wilson's *The Wolf by the Ears*. Her other credits include Beth (cover, *Little Women*) and Mademoiselle Silberklang (*The Impresario*). Ms. Williams holds a bachelor of music degree in voice performance from Westminster Choir College, a master of music from Ithaca College, and a professional studies certificate in opera from The Manhattan School of Music.

YUHUI YANG, soprano, from Shanghai, China, is a first year DMA student studying vocal performance with Molly Fillmore at University of North Texas. She graduated from Shanghai Conservatory of Music for the bachelor's degree and Manhattan School of Music for the master's degree and professional study certificate. Previous credits include Cupid (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) with Manhattan School of Music, Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*) with Macedonian Opera and Ballet in Skopje, Macedonia. In 2019 shewas a summer soloist of Liederabend Shanghai Conservatory of Music and Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe Exchange Program. Yuhui has performed Barbarina (*Le nozze di Figaro*) at UNT Opera this past fall, and will finish the season as Frasquita in *Carmen*.

Next Generation Opera at UNT *presents*

CARMEN

Music by
Georges Bizet

New Chamber Version by
Jonathan Eaton
With Orchestration by
Robert Frankenberry

Director
Jonathan Eaton
Conductor
Willem van Schalkwyk



DESIGN BREINAH WAGNER

**Next
Generation
Opera**



Next Generation Opera at UNT is an opera incubator funded
by the Richard and Enika Schulze Foundation

**University of
North Texas**
at the
**Murchison Performing
Arts Center
Lyric Theatre**

APR 19, 20, 21, 22

All performances 7:30 PM

Tickets \$5-\$35

nextgenopera.com

Presented with Supertitles



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Stage Director

Stephanie Rhodes Russell, Music Director

Willem van Schalkwyk, Coach/Pianist

Julie Hohman, Production Manager

Sara Steele, Pianist

Jiyoun Oh, Pianist

Taylor Carnes & Evan Stark, Administrative Assistants

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Allen Hightower - Director of Choral Studies & Conductor, A Cappella Choir,
Vox Aquilae, & Grand Chorus

Kristina Caswell MacMullen - Conductor, University Singers & Kalandra

Jessica Nápoles - Conductor, Concert Choir

Jamey Kelley and Jessica Nápoles - Choral Music Education

Joshua Habermann - Choral Literature

Jacob Augsten - Conducting Associate, Concert Choir & Kalandra

J. Christine Le - Conductor, Camerata & Conducting Associate,
University Singers

William McLean - Assistant Conductor, Dallas Symphony Chorus &
Conducting Class

Thomas Rinn - Conductor, Chorale & Conducting Class

Kenneth Sieloff - Conducting Associate, A Cappella Choir; Choral Librarian;
DCS Assistant

Daeun Kim - Collaborative Pianist, Kalandra & University Singers

Chiao-Ju Hung - Collaborative Pianist, Camerata & Concert Choir

Matthew Wilkinson - Collaborative Pianist, Chorale

Dong Hyun Kang - Conducting Associate, Vox Aquilae; Collaborative
Pianist, A Cappella Choir & Grand Chorus

Vocal Studies

Faculty: Stephen F. Austin, Daniel Bubeck, Richard Croft, Stephen Dubberly,
Molly Fillmore (Division Chair), Nereida García, William Joyner, Jennifer Lane,
Jeff MacMullen, Stephen Morscheck, Elvia Puccinelli, Jeffrey Snider,
Carol Wilson

Teaching Fellows: Natasha Bekker, Megan Gackle, Jessica Glenn, Kara Libby,
Kori Miller, Andrea Pinder, Christopher Rodriguez, Andrés Silva Valencia

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