



# UNT OPERA presents Humperdinck's HÄNSEL UND GRETEL

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Jonathan Eaton, director

Stephanie Rhodes Russell, conductor

Charles Baldwin, April 21 conductor

Megan Lamb, Youth Chorusmaster

Donna Marquet, designer

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Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Friday, April 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Lyric Theater

Murchison Performing Arts Center

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

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### **Hänsel und Gretel (1892)**

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck (1854–1921)

Libretto by Adelheid Wette (1858–1916)

Based on the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale (1812)

Directed by Jonathan Eaton

Conducted by Stephanie Rhodes Russell

Sung in German with English supertitles

ACT I

ACT II

--Intermission--

ACT III

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***Eight hundred fiftieth program of the 2023–2024 season  
Photography and videography are prohibited***

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
**COLLEGE OF MUSIC**

EXCELLENCE • INTEGRITY • IMAGINATION

University of North Texas Opera presents

# Hansel and Gretel

## Not Everything Is As It Appears

Director  
Jonathan Eaton

Music  
Engelbert Humperdinck

Story  
Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm

Conductors  
Stephanie Rhodes Russell  
Charles Baldwin

Designer  
Donna Marquet



Thursday, April 18 @ 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 19 @ 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 20 @ 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 21 @ 3:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15-\$35



Murchison Performing Arts Center - Lyric Theater

[music.unt.edu/events](http://music.unt.edu/events)

*Sung in German with English Supertitles*



Courageous  
Integrity



Be Curious



We Care



Better Together



Show Your  
Fire

OUR VALUES



**DRAMATIS PERSONAE****April 18 & 20****April 19 & 21**

Peter, a broommaker,  
father of Hänsel and  
Gretel

Yonghyun Kim

Isaac Carlin

Gertrud, wife of Peter,  
mother of Hänsel  
and Gretel

Jennifer Watson

Megan Gackle

Hänsel

Samantha Schmitz

Lauren Salazar

Gretel

Shuyi Li

Beatrice Kim

The Gingerbread Witch

Cecil Garrison

Sarah Harvey

The Sandman

Maryn West

Maryn West

The Dew Fairy

Emma Garcia

Madison Lang

**CHORUS OF ECHOES**

Abigail Bahng • Mattison Beezley • Katie Grace Stephenson

**CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

Sophia Abeyta • Anavi Banda • Addison Heinrich  
Nyla Hunter • Mok Parimi • Kyndall Pickering  
Skylar Pickering • Lily Rabner • Sahithi Singamneni

**UNDERSTUDIES**

Genevieve Cardos (Gertrud) • Abigail Bahng (Hänsel)  
Sorrel McCarthy (Sandman) • Madison Juneau (Dew Fairy)

## ARTISTIC TEAM

Conductor.....Stephanie Rhodes Russell  
Assistant Conductor (April 21 performance).....Charles Baldwin  
Stage Director.....Jonathan Eaton  
Youth Chorusmaster.....Megan Lamb  
Vocal Coaches.....Willem van Schalkwyk, David Štech  
Scenic Designer.....Donna Marquet  
Costume Designer.....Michael Robinson  
Lighting Designer.....Elijah Reed  
Wigs and Makeup.....Sophia Anderson, Diane Tiscareño  
Assistant Director.....Rudy Polk  
Répétiteuses.....Jiaxin Ou, Yu-Hsuan Lu & Lauren Koszyk

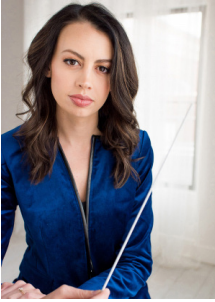
## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager.....Julie Hohman  
Resident Stage Manager.....Sorrel McCarthy  
Stage Manager.....Erica Menasco  
Assistant Stage Managers.....Sara Foshée, Madison Lang, Christian Lopez  
Supertitles.....Graham Day

## ORCHESTRA

Violin I.....Joseph Reding  
Violin II.....Thane Isaac  
Viola.....Lauren Menard  
Cello.....Elis Regina  
Bass.....Matt Luse  
Flute.....Sebastian Villanueva  
Oboe.....Kit Hawkins  
Clarinet.....Shane Uhl  
Bassoon.....Samuel Viebrock  
Horn.....Ben Ruiz  
Trumpet.....Mackenzie McCulloch  
Harp & Percussion.....Victoria Gonzales  
Timpani & Percussion.....Raina Liao

## 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.



**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 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** (Vocal 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 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.



**CHARLES BALDWIN** (Assistant Conductor) is a DMA orchestral conducting student at the University of North Texas. He currently serves as a graduate conductor of the UNT Orchestras and UNT Opera as well as assistant conductor of the Lewisville Lake Symphony. Charles completed a master of music in orchestral conducting at UNT in 2021 and a bachelor of music in piano performance at Furman University (Greenville, SC) in 2019. At Furman, Charles served as the assistant conductor of the Furman Symphony Orchestra (FSO), the assistant conductor of the Carolina Youth Symphony, a teacher in the Piano for Young People program, and a teaching

assistant for courses in music theory, ear training, keyboard harmony and orchestration. In 2019, Charles performed the first movement of Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto as a winner of the biennial FSO Concerto Contest. In 2016 and 2018, he earned Honorable Mention awards as a pianist in the South Carolina MTNA Young Artist Competition. Charles has participated in conducting workshops, institutes, and festivals around the country.



**MEGAN LAMB** (Youth Chorusmaster) is an active music educator. With 12 years of experience in elementary music, she currently teaches at Argyle West Elementary, where she's taught since its establishment in 2019. Ms. Lamb's dedication to her craft extends through various campuses, including two years at Argyle Intermediate School and five years at Dodd Intermediate School in Krum ISD. Notably, in Krum her students participated with the North Texas Children's Choir, where she received the

honorable 2015–2016 Sue Bancroft Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Lamb recently completed her Orff-Schulwerk Level III certification at Southern Methodist University in 2023. Ms. Lamb holds a double bachelor's degree in flute performance and music education from the University of North Texas. She is honored to return to her alma mater for this collaboration. Residing in North Texas, Ms. Lamb enjoys family life with her two sons, two cats, and their dog.



**RUDY POLK**, (Assistant Director) is from Clinton, Mississippi with considerable achievements as a young musician. Rudy has been singing and performing in choir since he was seven years old. In his youth he played Gavroche (*Les Misérables*) and Twin 1 (*Peter Pan*). Throughout high school, he performed in one of the nation's most well-known and successful show choirs, Attaché. Rudy is a member of the UNT A Cappella Choir and is currently a sophomore studying vocal performance at the University of North Texas with Professor William Joyner. Rudy plans to begin a minor in commercial music next semester.



**DAVID ŠTECH** (Vocal Coach) is a DMA student in orchestral conducting at UNT. He earned his bachelor of arts in organ performance at California State University, Chico. Subsequently, he secured his master of music in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University and a professional studies diploma in collaborative piano from the Manhattan School of Music. David is the founder and artistic director of the New York Conducting Institute. He has also taught at the University of Illinois Chicago, Roosevelt University, and, notably, the Manhattan School of Music, where he taught for eight years. Štech's mentors include David Itkin, Donald

Schleicher, Paul Nadler, and Michael Morgan. He was in the conducting class at Tanglewood where he participated in masterclasses with Sir Roger Norrington, Christoph von Dohnányi, and Kurt Mazur. Professionally, Štech has held key roles such as associate conductor for the dell'Arte Opera Ensemble and the New York Lyric Opera. He is music director emeritus of the American Opera Group in Chicago and the Astoria Symphony Orchestra in New York City. He was assistant conductor at Sarasota Opera and the long-time assistant conductor and chorus master at St. Petersburg Opera. David's recent guest conducting engagements include The Florida Orchestra and Brooklyn Ballet. Next summer, he will conduct at the inaugural season of the Lyric Arts Festival in southern France.





**JIAXIN OU** (Collaborative Pianist) earned a bachelor's degree in musicology (music education) at the South China Normal University School of Music, Guangzhou, China in 2019. Being enthusiastic with piano performing and collaborating, she pursued further studies, and earned a master's degree in both piano performance and vocal coaching at Oklahoma City University in 2023. During her master's degree studies at OCU, she was the assistant musical director for *A Little*

*Night Music*, *Children of Eden*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Speed Dating Tonight*, and Performance Study Program. Currently, Jiaxin is a first year DMA student studying collaborative piano at University of North Texas, where she works as a teaching assistant in the UNT Opera program.



**YU-HSUAN LU** (Collaborative Pianist), a native of Taiwan, is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in collaborative piano at University of North Texas under the guidance of Steven Harlos and Elvia Puccinelli. She has served as a teaching assistant at UNT. She earned her master's degrees in piano performance and collaborative piano at Cleveland Institute of Music. Yu-Hsuan held the position of associate professor of piano in Huaiyin Normal University, China in 2017. She performs

regularly with her colleagues and musicians in China and participated in the vocal accompaniment recording project for Jiangsu Education Examination Institute. Yu-Hsuan has been performing as a collaborative pianist throughout the United States, Taiwan and China. She also played for numerous masterclasses, including Daniel Ferro, Joel Krosnick, Eric Larsen and Raminta Lampsatis.



**LAUREN KOSZYK** (Collaborative Pianist) is currently pursuing her doctor of musical arts at the University of North Texas studying with Dr. Steven Harlos and Dr. Elvia Puccinelli. Originally from Normal, Illinois, Ms. Koszyk has given performances and presentations across Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the United States. 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, and Opera Seme. She has accompanied masterclasses given by renowned Metropolitan Opera soprani Angela Brown and Yvonne Redman. Ms. Koszyk has prepared complete productions of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *La bohème*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, *Mese mariano*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. She has assisted in productions of *Aïda*, *Carmen*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Hänsel und Gretel*. Ms. Koszyk holds degrees in piano, collaborative piano, and German and currently serves as a teaching assistant for UNT Opera.



**DONNA MARQUET** (Scenic Designer) is a senior lecturer in scenic design & theatre advisor at the University of North Texas. Her designs have been seen locally at the Dallas Theater Center, Shakespeare Dallas, Casa Mañana, Kitchen Dog Theatre, Jubilee Theater and Lyric Stage. Regionally, she has designed for South Coast Repertory, Center Theatre Group, Theatre @ Boston Court, Sacred Fools, Open Fist Theatre, Colony Theatre and The Evidence Room. She has won

numerous awards including the Bob Z Career Achievement Award from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle. She has been a scenic painter for the LaJolla Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, Cincinnati Opera among others. Her television credits include Art Department coordinator and graphic designer for various Nickelodeon shows including *All That*, *The Amanda Show* and *Drake & Josh*. Ms. Marquet earned her BFA from Miami University in Ohio and her MFA from University of California, San Diego.



**MICHAEL ROBINSON** (Costume Designer) meets clients one at a time at his Dallas Costume Shoppe in Deep Ellum, one of Dallas' premier costume destinations. The pandemic slowed business down, but for a costume shop that has been open for over 100 years, owner and CEO Robinson knows the shop will go on. Currently Robinson is creating costumes for theaters filming video productions. Robinson,

a Dallas College Brookhaven Campus alumnus, returned to campus to work on productions as an adjunct professor. He eventually taught theatre courses at the Brookhaven and North Lake campuses. Robinson, a partner in the Dallas Puppet Theater, directed *Hansel and Gretel*, a marionette show at Brookhaven in the Spring 2020 semester. Robinson said he started his theatre career at the age of one when he was cast as the youngest son in *The King and I*. His parents loved theatre and encouraged their son's interest in it, though Robinson said his parents most likely appreciated the time they had to themselves while he rehearsed. After acting, he began designing sets, and later got into costuming. Depending on the show, Robinson said he uses what he has to make costumes, sometimes cutting a skirt away from tops to create a new outfit or even creating pieces from scratch, a more difficult option due to the costly fabrics. Robinson has built a fine reputation over the years with his co-workers. "He is extraordinarily multi-talented, an exceptional collaborator, and a valued friend and colleague" (Darise Error, Brookhaven faculty). He has worked at University of North Texas College of Music Opera, director and costume designer at Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, actor/costume designer at Stage West, actor at Actors' Equity Association, director and costume designer at Irving Arts Center, director at Uptown Players, costumer, scenic designer, director at WaterTower Theatre, director/costumer/performer at Garland Summer Musicals, worked at Singer/Songwriter, worked at Lyric Stage, worked at Pegasus Theatre, Dallas, former director and costume designer at Rockwall Summer Musicals, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, former director at Uptown Players - Kalita Humphreys Theatre, former director at Theatre Arlington, former director, actor, and costume designer at Theatre Three.

## SOLOISTS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER



**ABIGAIL BAHNG**, mezzo-soprano, is a second year from Houston, Texas, and is currently studying vocal performance with Dr. Jeffrey Snider and is a member of the UNT A Cappella Choir. This is her first year in the UNT Opera program, and upcoming roles include chorus (*Cendrillon* and *La Rondine*), an Echo (*Hänsel und Gretel*), and understudy for both Lillian (*That Hellbound Train*) and Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*).



**BEATRICE KIM**, soprano, is a Korean-American soprano working as a doctoral student and teaching fellow at the UNT College of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Carol Wilson. Stage credits include Noémie (*Cendrillon*), Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Amore (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*), Laura (*Goblin Market*), L'Enfant (*L'Enfant et les sortilèges*), Hansel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), La Conversa and La Cercatrice (*Suor Angelica*), and Ella (*Patience*). In 2023, She was selected as a Young Artist for Cedar Rapids Opera and performed in the chorus and as a cover for Despina (*Così fan tutte*). Kim holds a performer diploma from Indiana University, a master

of music from the Eastman School of Music and a B.M from the University of Oklahoma. Her solo concert work ranges from Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light*, Haydn's *Heiligmesse*, and two concerts in Germany. Off stage, Beatrice is also an avid supporter of opera outreach education programs, and has worked for the non-profit organizations What is Opera, Anyway? and Reimagining Opera for Kids.



**CECIL GARRISON**, tenor, is a 2nd year DMA student from Farmington, New Mexico studying with Jeffrey Snider. He played the role of Don José in UNT's Spring 2023 production of *Carmen*. 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*.



**EMMA GARCIA**, soprano, is a junior pursuing a bachelor of music in vocal performance and choral music education at the University of North Texas, studying under Dr. Carol Wilson. Emma currently sings with UNT's A Cappella Choir and early music ensemble, Vox Aquilae, and she was recently awarded second place in the third-year treble division of the 2023 Texoma NATS Conference. In the summer of 2023 in Urbino, Italy, she performed in a scenes program as Mimì (*La bohème*),

Giulietta (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*), and as Servilia (*La clemenza di Tito*) with the Opera in Concert Young Artist Program. Emma has also been involved in the University of North Texas opera program, performing as Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) in their scenes program and as chorus (*Le nozze di Figaro* and *The Bartered Bride*). Upcoming UNT opera roles include Betty Joe (*That Hellbound Train*) and Dew Fairy (*Hänsel und Gretel*).



**GENEVIEVE CARDOS**, mezzo-soprano, originally from Gambia, earned a BA in music at Spelman College and MM at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She currently is pursuing a DMA in vocal performance at UNT Denton, studying with Dr. Jennifer Lane. Genevieve has performed the roles of Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), Cecilia (*Little Women*) and chambermaid (*Don Pasquale*), while at University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She also has performed the role of Angelina (*Trial By Jury*). 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.



**ISAAC CARLIN**, baritone, from Omaha, Nebraska, is a 1st year DMA student at the University of North Texas, studying under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen Morscheck. He earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance at Brigham Young University, and a master's degree in voice performance at UNT. Isaac recently performed the role of Escamillo (*Carmen*) at UNT, which he also toured around the Dallas/Fort Worth area, singing the role in French, English and Spanish. He also assistant-directed UNT's production of André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*

in 2023. Other recent roles include the Sacristan (*Tosca*) in concert with the UNT Symphony Orchestra, and Pandolfe (*Cendrillon*) with UNT Opera.



**JENNIFER WATSON**, full lyric soprano, is in her first year as a doctoral candidate and teaching fellow at the University of North Texas. Most recently Jennifer has performed Miss Jessel (*Turn of the Screw*) and covered the Governess (*Turn of the Screw*) with Chicago Summer Opera and Painted Sky Opera in OKC respectively. She worked with the Chicago Summer Opera, covering Prince Charming (*Cendrillon*), the previous year as well. Jennifer received her master's degree at Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where she performed Vera Boronel (*The Consul*) and covered Older Alyce (*Glory Denied*). Her very first opera role was Harmony Bridgman (world premiere of *A Porcelain Doll*) at Oklahoma Baptist University. Jennifer won second place in the 2023 Benton-Schmidt competition and sang in Polish for the first time with the OKC philharmonic and ballet in October 2022 (*Lady of the Camellias*). She is a member of Dr. Stephen Morscheck's studio.



**KATIE GRACE STEPHENSON**, soprano, is a junior from Fort Worth, Texas studying vocal performance with Professor William Joyner. In performance with UNT Opera, she will perform in the choruses of *Cendrillon*, *La Rondine*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *That Hellbound Train*. Katie Grace was the recipient of the Jennifer Glidden Performer of the Year award from the DFW chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in both 2022 and 2023.



**LAUREN SALAZAR**, mezzo-soprano, is a first year Opera graduate artist certificate and M.B.A. in music bBusiness student studying under the tutelage of Dr. Carol Wilson. She holds a B.M. in vocal performance from The University of Texas at Austin and graduated with her M.M. in vocal performance in December from the University of North Texas. Her recent roles include the Carmen (*Carmen*) and Dido (Dido and Aeneas) with the University of North Texas, amongst others including Gianetta (*The Gondoliers*) with TEXAS Outdoor Musical Drama, Lucia (*The Rape of Lucretia*) 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. This season she will perform as Dorothee (*Cendrillon*) and Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with UNT Opera.



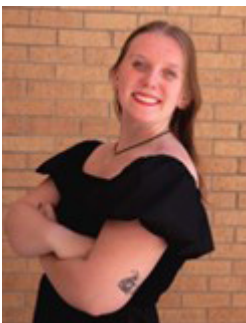
**MADISON JUNEAU**, soprano, is a senior from Bridge City, Texas studying choral music education and voice performance under the direction of Dr. Carol Wilson. Most recently, Madison performed as Spirit 7 and chorus (*Cendrillon*) and as Violet and chorus (*That Hellbound Train*). She also recently performed in the chorus (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and served as Assistant Stage Manager (*Carmen*) for UNT Opera. Last spring for her junior recital, she sang the role of Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*).



**MADISON LANG**, soprano, is a 4th-year vocal performance major from McKinney, Texas. She studies voice under professor Jennifer Lane and is a member of UNT's A Cappella Choir and the Division of Vocal Studies Student Council. This is Madison's second season doing UNT Opera. Her previous UNT Opera roles include Barbarina (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) in the UNT Opera scenes program. Madison also sang the role of Second Woman in a UNT summer production of *Dido and Aeneas* directed by Molly Fillmore. In 2023, Madison won first place in the Texoma Regional NATS in musical theatre, and also won first place in the DFW Chapter NATS in classical voice.



**MARYN WEST**, soprano, is a sophomore from Houston, Texas studying vocal performance with Dr. Carol Wilson. Maryn is a member of A Cappella Choir and Vox Aquilae. Recent performances with UNT Opera include chorus (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Dew Fairy (*Hänsel und Gretel*) in the 2023 Opera Scenes Program. Upcoming roles include chorus (*Cendrillon*), Yvette (understudy) and chorus (*La Rondine*), Sherry (understudy) and chorus (*That Hellbound Train*), and Sandman (*Hänsel und Gretel*).



**MATTISON BEEZLEY**, soprano, originally from Grapevine, Texas, is a double major in vocal performance and music education with a minor in French. She is a third-year student and her voice teacher is Dr. Daniel Bubeck. She is part of the music education organization UpFront! and is also an active member in the music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota where she serves as the Vice President of Ritual.



**MEGAN GACKLE**, mezzo-soprano, hailing from Tampa, FL, Megan is a second year DMA student in vocal performance with an emphasis in choral conducting. She received her master's in vocal performance in 2019 from Baylor University where she also completed her undergraduate degree in choral music education in addition to Florida State University. She made her Carnegie debut at the Kurt Weill Concert Hall in 2019 after winning the Semper Pro Music competition. Megan has performed a variety

of operatic roles including Eunice (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Oreste (*Oreste*), Queen Hera in the U.S. premiere of *All Wounds Bleed* with the Chicago Fringe Opera and Latitude 49, Dinah (*Trouble in Tahiti*), Dorabella (*Così fan Tutte*) and Countess Charlotte Magnus (*A Little Night Music*). She has been awarded a teaching fellowship and teaches a full studio here at UNT. She is under the private instruction of Professor Molly Fillmore.



**SAMANTHA SCHMITZ**, mezzo-soprano, is a second-year master's student from Westphalia, Iowa studying voice performance with Molly Fillmore. She holds a bachelor's degree in vocal music education from Iowa State University. 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 Cherubino (*Le nozze*

*di Figaro*), Flower Woman (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Mercédès (*Carmen*), Dritte Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), Armelinde (*Cendrillon*), Hansel (*Hänsel and Gretel*), and Public Opinion (*Orpheus in the Underworld*). Samantha will be singing Le Prince Charmant (*Cendrillon*) and Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) this season with UNT Opera.



**SARAH HARVEY**, mezzo-soprano, is a first year graduate artist certificate student under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen Morscheck. From Texarkana, Texas, Ms. Harvey received her bachelor's of music education from Texas A&M-Commerce and later her master's in vocal performance from the University of North Texas. She has recently performed the roles of Magda (*The Path to Heaven*), Eunice (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Mercédès (*Carmen*), and the Sorceress (*Dido and Aeneas*). In 2019, Ms. Harvey

was a finalist at the TEXOMA NATS conference in her Senior Division. She currently sings in UNT's premier baroque ensemble, Vox Aquilae, alongside the Baroque Orchestra and is a frequent soloist.



**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 Dr. 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 Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Suor Genovieffa/Una conversa (*Suor Angelica*) with Bay View Music Festival, Cupid (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) with Hawaii Performing Arts Festival,

Kate (*The Pirates of Penzance*) with Cedar Rapids Opera. 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*), Despina (*Così fan tutte*). Upcoming roles include Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with UNT Opera.



**YONGHYUN KIM**, baritone, South Korean operatic baritone Yonghyun Kim is a second-year DMA student at the University of North Texas studying under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen Morscheck. Previous credits include Marcello (*La bohème*), Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*), Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), Escamillo (*Carmen*), Dr. Falke (*Die Fledermaus*) and Il Conte di Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Upcoming performances include Peter (*Hänsel und Gretel*) at UNT. He had a professional solo recital in Seoul, Korea, with Kumho Asiana Cultural Foundation in 2017. He participated in

the Aspen Music Festival as a fellowship singer with a full scholarship. He graduated from Seoul National University in 2014 (BM) and also graduated from Manhattan School of Music in 2018(MM) studying 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 in 2022-2023.