



UNT OPERA presents Giacomo Puccini's LA RONDINE

Michael Serrecchia, director

Stephen A. Mulligan, conductor

David Štech, conductor

Donna Marquet, designer

Emily Jensen, choreographer

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Friday, March 1, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Lyric Theater

Murchison Performing Arts Center

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University of North Texas Opera presents

LA RONDINE

Love. Tears. Regret.

Music: Giacomo Puccini
Libretto: Giuseppe Adami, Alfred Maria Willner and Heinz Reichert

Director: Michael Serrecchia
Conductors: Stephen Mulligan and David Štech
Designer: Donna Marquet

Feb. 29 @ 7:30 p.m. • March 2 @ 7:30 p.m.
March 1 @ 7:30 p.m. • March 3 @ 3:00 p.m.

University of North Texas Concert Orchestra
Murchison Performing Arts Center - Lyric Theater
Tickets \$15-\$35
music.unt.edu/events
Sung in Italian with English Supertitles

50th Anniversary
1973-2023

UNT
COLLEGE OF MUSIC
UNT OPERA

**Five hundred fifty-fifth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE AND SYNOPSIS

As we delve into the timeless themes of Giacomo Puccini's *La Rondine*, it becomes apparent that the opera is a poignant exploration of love, sacrifice, and societal expectations. Set against the backdrop of early twentieth-century Paris, the characters grapple with the complexities of their desires and the constraints imposed by their social status.

At its core, *La Rondine* delves into the universal longing for love and acceptance. Magda, our protagonist, embodies this longing as she yearns for genuine affection amidst the superficiality of her high-class world. Her romance with Ruggero ignites a spark of hope, illustrating the transformative power of love to transcend societal boundaries.

However, intertwined with this romantic narrative is the theme of sacrifice. Magda's decision to leave Ruggero highlights the harsh realities of social stigma and the sacrifices one must make for the greater good. This poignant exploration of sacrifice prompts us to reflect on the complexities of human relationships and the lengths we go to for love.

As we bring *La Rondine* to life on stage, let us delve into the emotional depth of these themes, capturing the nuances of love, sacrifice, and societal expectations. Through nuanced performances and evocative staging, we aim to transport the audience into the world of early twentieth-century Paris and provoke contemplation on the timeless themes that resonate with audiences across generations.

In **Act 1**, we are introduced to Magda, a high-class courtesan hosting a lavish party in her Parisian home. Despite her glamorous lifestyle, Magda longs for true love and a simpler life.

--Intermission--

Act 2 takes place at Bulliers, a night club of infamous repute. She meets Ruggero, a young man from a respectable family, and they are instantly drawn to each other. Their mutual attraction sets the stage for their budding romance.

--Intermission--

Act 3 takes place several months later in a villa on the French Riviera. Magda and Ruggero are deeply in love and enjoying a blissful holiday together. However, their happiness is overshadowed by the revelation of Magda's past as a courtesan. Ruggero's conservative values and the societal expectations surrounding their relationship create tension and uncertainty about their future together. Magda makes the heartbreaking decision to leave Ruggero in order to protect him from scandal and preserve his reputation. She returns to her former life as a courtesan, sacrificing her own happiness for the sake of Ruggero's social standing.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE**Feb. 29 & Mar. 2****Mar. 1 & Mar. 3**

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Magda de Civry | Xinjin Yang | Kara McBain |
| Lisette, <i>her maid</i> | MiaRose Hanberry | Chiyue Huang |
| Ruggero Lastoue | Feb. 29: Michael David Ash, Act I; Zhihui Pang, Acts 2-3 Mar. 2: Zhihui Pang | Zhihui Pang |
| Prunier, <i>a poet</i> | Brian Mengler | Lwazi Hlati |
| Rambaldo, <i>Magda's protector</i> | Avery Sanderlin | Seth Bazán |
| Yvette/Georgette | Sojung Lim | Taylor Fenner |
| Bianca/Gabriella | Harli Daniel | Eleanor Williams |
| Suzy/Lolette | Sara Foshee | Hayeong Park |
| Périchaud/Rabonnier | Jaden Jackson-Cooper | Ethan Matous |
| Gobin | Timothy Anderson (Thu/Sun) | Sidney Washington (Fri/Sat) |
| Crébillon | Christopher Gray | Benjamin Bassett |
| Adolfo | Gavin Godbey | Gavin Godbey |
| Un giovane | Moises Ybaben-Burciaga | Alexis Mendoza-Sánchez |
| Il maggiordomo | Seth Bazán | Avery Sanderlin |
| Cantore | Erica Menasco | Christina Lopez |
| Pianist | Jiaxin Ou | Jiaxin Ou |

CHORUS

Soprano: Madison Juneau, Christina Noelle Lopez, Erica Vanessa Menasco, Katie Grace Stephenson, Maryn West

Alto: Abigail Bahng, Natalie Harlos, Diane Tiscareño

Tenor: James Dickens II, Gavin Godbey, Alexis Mendoza-Sánchez, Rudy Polk, Tyler Warwas, Sidney Washington, Moises Ybaben-Burciaga

Bass: Benjamin Bassett, Christopher Gray, Jaden Jackson-Cooper, Ethan Matous

DANCERS

Joshua Dabney, Jasmin Nikkole Goates, Annali Potter, Riley Respondek, Baylie Stevenson, Ava Townsley

ARTISTIC TEAM

Conductor.....Stephen A. Mulligan
Conductor (March 3).....David Štech
Stage Director.....Michael Serrecchia
Music Director.....Stephanie Rhodes Russell
Vocal Coach.....Willem van Schalkwyk
Chorus Master.....Ella Castro
Choreographer.....Emily Jensen
Scenic Designer.....Donna Marquet
Costume Designer.....Michael Robinson
Lighting Designer.....Elijah Reed
Assistant Director.....Talitha Murphy
Répétiteuses.....Jiaxin Ou, Yu-Hsuan Lu & Lauren Koszyk

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager.....Julie Hohman
Resident Stage Manager.....Sorrel McCarthy
Stage Manager.....Madison Lang
Assistant Stage Manager.....Katie Grace Stephenson
Assistant Stage Manager.....Macey Deck
Supertitles.....Isaac Carlin

La Rondine/The Swallow (1917)

Music by Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924)

Libretto by Giuseppe Adami (1878–1946)

Based on a libretto by

Alfred Maria Willner (1859–1929) and Heinz Reichert (1877–1940)

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

ACT I

--Intermission--

ACT II

--Intermission--

ACT III

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Lucas Furtado
Kelly Huang
Luca Nardelli
Chloe Svadlenka
Sofia Vega
Seth Castellano

Violin II

Ella Curb
Emma Swank
Braeden Boyles
Zakkary Diserens
Josue Tachiquin
Lancelot Clark

Viola

John Sharp
Kate Durham
Johnathan Ramos
Angel de Hoyos
Anthony Brooks
Camryn Bourne

Cello

Deohanz Buenafe
Jingyuan Zhang
Claire Cabral
Ashton Gonzalez
Maya Huber
Ethen Lim

Double Bass

Joe Ferris
Zoe Harris
Kevin Nuñez Alejandro
Camryn Lafargue

Flute

Seungbeom Oh
Summer Bruner
Carter Reynolds

Piccolo

Carter Reynolds

Oboe

Daniel Moreira
Ava Raymond

English Horn

Ava Raymond

Clarinet

Riley Mazziotta
Kyle Norberg

Bass Clarinet

Kyle Norberg

Bassoon

Megan Gober
Artur Kuchurivskiy

Horn

Caleb Harold
Eva Gomez

Trumpet

Joseph Williams
Robert Jones

Bass Trombone

Aaron Anderton-Coss

Timpani

Brayden Haslam

Percussion

Desmond Bigler
Jack Spelman
Zeke Strawn

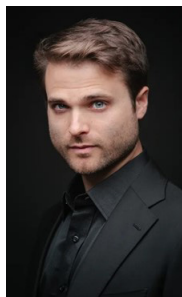
Harp

María De Jesús Contreras

Celesta/Piano

Jiaxin Ou
Lauren Koszyk

ARTISTIC TEAM



American conductor and composer **STEPHEN A. 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.

2023–24 season highlights include conducting debuts with the Louisiana Philharmonic, San Antonio Philharmonic, and University of North Texas Opera, and return engagements with the Dallas and Phoenix symphonies. He will present his own compositions at the Boulez Saal in Berlin with students from the Barenboim-Said Akademie. As a lover

of and advocate for the music of today, he conducted on the New York Philharmonic's Sound ON Series in 2022 and was reinvited for the 65th Street Session Series in 2023.

As a fellow with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Stephen Mulligan stepped in for Gustavo Dudamel on short notice to conduct an all-Beethoven program featuring pianists Beatrice Rana and Conrad Tao. He led Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat* with Kate Burton as narrator and conducted an All-Ravel Toyota Symphonies for the Youth Concert directed by Kitty McNamee. In addition, he prepared the casts of John Adams' *Nixon in China* for the composer and Stravinsky's *Perséphone* for Esa-Pekka Salonen. During the first season as associate conductor with the Atlanta Symphony he stepped in on short notice for three classical subscription programs over the course of six weeks, working with mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano and pianists Jorge Federico Osorio and Behzod Abduraimov to critical acclaim.

In demand as a guest conductor, he has conducted programs with the Detroit Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, National Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Sarasota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, and Virginia Symphony.

Stephen Mulligan is the winner of the Aspen Conducting Prize, which he received after two summers as a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School, along with an invitation to return the following summer as the festival's assistant conductor. He is also a three-time recipient of the Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award and the Yale University Wrexham Prize.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, he began his violin studies with his father Gregory and continued with Kyung Yu at Yale University. He studied conducting with Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier, and Markand Thakar at the Peabody Institute, and with Robert Spano at the Aspen Music Festival. He has a degree in composition with Jörg Widmann from the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin. Stephen Mulligan is represented worldwide by Marianne Schmocker Artists New York and Munich.



MICHAEL SERRECCHIA (Stage Director) is a seasoned theatre director, choreographer, and educator known for his versatile talents and passionate dedication to the performing arts. With over five decades of experience in the industry, Serrecchia has left an indelible mark on the world of theatre.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Serrecchia's love for theatre blossomed at a young age. He studied dance, voice and acting, honing his craft and laying the foundation for a successful career.

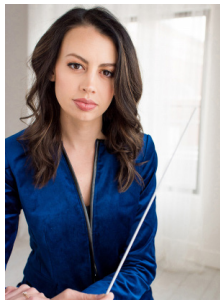
His Broadway credits include *The Rothchilds*, *The Selling of the President*, *Heathen!*, Cole Porter's *Out of This World*, *Sing Happy* at Lincoln Center, *Seesaw*, where he first worked with Michael Bennett, and the milestone musical *A Chorus Line*, for which he won a Drama Desk Award, a New York Theatre Critics Award, a Theatre World Award and special Tony Award Recognition.

In addition to his work on stage, Serrecchia is also a highly sought-after educator and mentor. He has taught masterclasses and workshops at universities and performing arts schools around the country, sharing his expertise and inspiring the next generation of performers.

Serrecchia's passion for storytelling and his ability to bring characters to life through movement and music have earned him widespread acclaim from audiences and critics alike. His productions are known for their creativity, innovation, and emotional depth, captivating audiences and leaving a lasting impression.

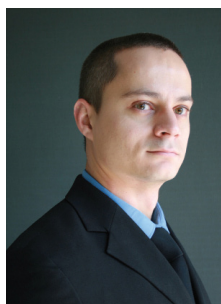
In recognition of his contributions to the theatre community, Serrecchia has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career. He is a recipient of the prestigious Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence and was honored by New York's Public Theater for his contribution to American Theatre.

As a director, choreographer, and educator, Michael Serrecchia continues to push the boundaries of theatre and inspire audiences around the world. With his unparalleled talent, dedication, and passion for the arts, he remains a driving force in the industry, leaving an enduring legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.



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 Festival.



WILLEM VAN SCHALKWYK (Chorus Master), 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 coach at the University of Northern Colorado, and joined the University of North Texas faculty in the fall of 2020 as the Opera coach.



EMILY JENSEN (Choreographer) is an educator, dancemaker, and performer based in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. She serves as an adjunct professor of dance at the University of North Texas. She is also the coach assistant of the Texas Woman's University Pioneer Pride Dance Team. Emily graduated with her MFA in dance from Texas Woman's University in 2023, her BA in dance education from the same institution in 2020,

and her AA in dance from Kilgore College in 2017. Emily's twenty years in professional movement training spans several genres including modern, jazz, tap, hip hop, contemporary, musical theatre, and ballet. She has premiered stage and video dance works within concert, competition, and festival spaces both locally and internationally. Emily grows her scholarship through writing and presentations, having recently presented at the National Dance Organization's National Conference in Denver, CO. She is also in the process of co-writing a chapter for *The Oxford Handbook of Ballet Pedagogy*. Her research involves dance ecologies, exploring intersectional relationships between viewers, dancers, objects, sounds, spaces, etc.—and how they may shift—within her interdisciplinary work. Emily is thankful to be involved in the UNT community. She recently served as choreographer for UNT Theatre's *Peter and the Starcatcher*, rehearsal director for UNT Dance's guest artist Tiffanee Arnold of Full Circle Dance, and UNT Opera's *Cendrillon*. Emily looks forward to continuing her work with the incredible students and faculty at UNT!



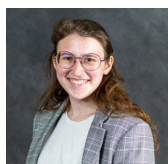
DAVID ŠTECH (Assistant Conductor) is a DMA student in orchestral conducting at UNT. He earned his bachelor of arts in organ performance at California State University, Chico. Subsequently, he secured his master of music in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University and a professional studies 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.



ELLA CASTRO (Chorus Master) is a Filipino soprano, conductor, and composer. A jack of many trades, Castro has a stellar career in singing and teaching diverse genres from pop to classical, leading choirs and orchestras, and composing and arranging musicals and choral works. She won numerous accolades in her singing career, including placing first in National Association of Teachers for Singing

– Louisiana State. She also had her own voice studio at Northwestern State University School of Creative and Performing Arts, teaching students ranging from teenagers to college. She was also the interim director of NSU Men's Chorus for almost two years. Back in the Philippines, she was the resident musical director and composer of Teatro Kalsayeño, Caloocan City Science High School's theatre group from 2014 to 2020, composing various musicals for and with them. Taking on her lifelong dream to become an orchestra conductor, she made her debut with the Natchitoches Northwestern Symphony Orchestra and NSU Men's Chorus during their 2022 St. Patrick's Day Pops Concert. She was the chorus master and assistant conductor of Spotlight on Opera 2023's productions of *Suor Angelica* and *Madama Butterfly* held in Shreveport, Louisiana. Currently, she is working on her doctoral degree in orchestral conducting at University of North Texas under Maestro David Itkin, conducting and assisting in the UNT Symphony Orchestra and Concert Orchestra.



TALITHA MURPHY (Assistant Director), originally from San Francisco, California, is a student of Jessica Ferring Glenn. She is a junior at the University of North Texas, pursuing a BA in voice, a BM in harpsichord performance, and a minor in French. She has performed the role of Summer in *The Fairy Queen* and sang in the chorus for *Die Zauberflöte* at the San Francisco Opera Summer Conservatory, and will be singing

one of the Echoes in UNT's Spring production of *Hänsel und Gretel*. In 2019, she won the Young Musicians and Artists Concerto Competition with her performance of Bach's *D minor Keyboard Concerto*, BWV 1052, and in the Spring of 2023 she presented at the Texas Society of Music Theory's annual conference on the subject of adaptive video game music.



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 sopranos 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.

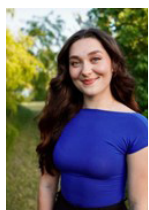
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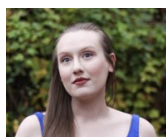
MICHAEL DAVID ASH, tenor, a native of Vancouver, Washington, is a second year master's student studying under Professor William Joyner. Last season with UNT Opera, Michael performed as Harold Mitchell in André Previn's opera *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He also recently made his role debut as Don José in *Carmen* with Miami Music Festival. He has taken part in prestigious programs such as Astoria Music Festival, Aquilon Music Festival and the Dolores Zajick Institute for Young Dramatic Voices. Other roles include Tamino and First Armed Guard in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, as well as the partial roles of Lenski from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and Lyonel from Flotow's *Martha*. In Portland, Oregon, he has had the opportunity to perform with new companies such as Lark Opera. With Lark Opera he performed in a socially distanced *Magic Flute*, as well as a gala performance of arias and duets by Puccini, Bizet and Verdi.



SETH BAZÁN, baritone, is a senior from Beeville, Texas, studying vocal performance with Professor William Joyner. This summer, Seth performed with the Highland Park Chorale, singing Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* and Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* and competed in the Handel Aria Competition. Upcoming roles include Le Roi (*Cendrillon*), Il maggiordomo (*La Rondine*), and Impatient Guy/Tour Guide (*That Hellbound Train*).



HARLI DANIEL, soprano, is a senior from Houston, Texas studying voice performance at the University of North Texas under the instruction of Dr. Stephen Morscheck. Most recently she performed in the chorus of *Le nozze di Figaro* with UNT Opera. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Bianca (*La Rondine*) and Salvation Army Captain (*That Hellbound Train*).

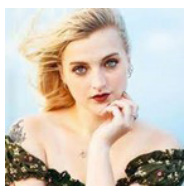


TAYLOR FENNER, soprano, is a 2nd year master's student from Brookings, South Dakota and graduate of Augustana University. She is studying voice performance with Dr. Carol Wilson. Most recently, she debuted Alcina (*Alcina*) with the Handel Opera Academy in Tarnowskie Góry, Poland. This season, Taylor will be singing Yvette/Georgette (*La Rondine*) and Sherry (*That Hellbound Train*) with UNT Opera. On the opera stage, she has performed the roles of Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Micaëla (*Carmen*), Ida (*Die Fledermaus*), Sophia (*The Ransom of Sophia*), and Celié (*Signor Deluso*).



SARA FOSHEE, mezzo-soprano, is a junior from San Antonio, Texas studying vocal performance with Dr. Carol Wilson. This summer she was in Urbino, Italy performing the roles of Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*) and Sesto and Annio (*La clemenza di Tito*) with the summer program Opera in Concert in their opera scenes program. In performance with UNT Opera, she will perform the role of Suzy and Lolette (*La Rondine*) and Lillian (*That Hell-Bound Train*). In the past, Sara has performed the role of First Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) in the UNT Opera scenes program and chorus in *Le nozze di Figaro* and *The Bartered*

Bride.



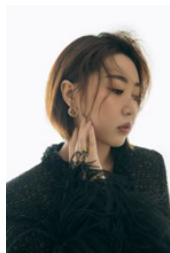
MIAROSE HANBERRY, soprano, is a second year master's student from Orange Grove, Texas, studying with Professor William Joyner at the University of North Texas. She obtained her bachelor of arts degree in vocal performance from the Moores School of Music in Houston, Texas. With over 15 years of training 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 Second Woman (*Dido and Aeneas*), and as the Fortune Teller in the University of North Texas's tour of *Carmen*. MiaRose's upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Noemie (*Cendrillon*) and Lisette (*La Rondine*). In the summer of 2022, MiaRose was a top-10 semifinalist in the Nina International Solo Voice Competition for Young Voices in Bergen, Norway, as part of the Grieg Festival.



LWAZI HLATI, tenor, from Johannesburg, South Africa, holds a bachelor in vocal art (TUT) South Africa and also obtained both a master's and a performer's diploma from Southern Methodist University, Meadows School of Art. He is currently pursuing a graduate artist certificate in opera performance at the University of North Texas under the instruction of Prof. William Joyner. He is the recipient of several honors, including an Artistic Merit from Meadows School of Art, Bruce R. Foote Memorial Award, an Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, SAMRO

Award, and Artist Merit Award from South African National Arts Council. He won first place (best art song presentation) in the inaugural New York City Opera and Manhattan School of Music Duncan Williams voice competition. As one of Johannesburg's most sought-after tenors, he gained recognition from his performances as Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), Fenton (*Falstaff*), Don José (*Carmen*), and Mitch (*A Streetcar named Desire*) as well as working alongside several opera companies and extensive concert works across Africa and Greece. He has also performed in several productions and concerts with Fort Worth Opera including Gastone (*La traviata*) and Witch (*Hänsel und Gretel*).

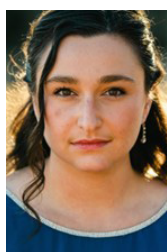


CHIYUE HUANG, soprano, hailing from China, graduated from Northeast Normal University in 2020 with a degree in vocal performance under the tutelage of Prof. Soon-e Kim. In 2021, she attended the Manhattan School of Music to pursue her master's degree where she studied with Metropolitan soprano Prof. Ashley Putnam. She is currently studying for her doctor of musical arts degree in vocal performance at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Prof. Jennifer Lane. Recent credits include *Fiordiligi (Così fan tutte)*, *Adina (L'elisir d'amore)*, *A Lak (Seven Sisters)*, and *Danica (Svadba)*.



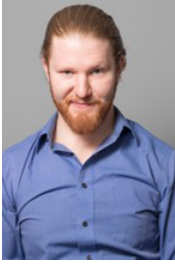
SOJUNG LIM, soprano, from South Korea, is a second-year doctoral student majoring in vocal performance and vocal pedagogy at the University of North Texas. Most recently, Sojung performed the roles of Coco and 2nd Policewoman (*Orpheus in the Underworld*) in the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. In 2020, she was featured in the role of Sojung (*Isolation*) in the pastiche opera film directed by Ann Baltz and performed "VII. Enfant" as the title role of Emilie (*Emilie* by Kaija Saariaho) at Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins

University. Sojung performed the role of Knabe 1 (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Seoul National University Opera. She also participated in Das Italienisches Liederbuch Projekt with Arlene Shrut at the Peabody Institute. In Summer 2022, she participated in the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and Bel Canto in Tuscany. Sojung Lim received her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Seoul National University and her master's degree/graduate performance diploma in voice performance at Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. She is currently in the studio of Dr. Daniel Bubeck at the University of North Texas.



KARA MCBAIN, soprano, currently studies at the University of North Texas in the doctor of musical arts program with Dr. Carol Wilson, serving as a teaching fellow in the Voice Department. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, she earned her bachelor of music *summa cum laude* from Missouri State University in 2020, and received her master of music in 2022 from the University of North Texas. She was the 2022 winner of the Mary Prudie Brown Award from the National Federation of Music Clubs, won first place in the 2021 Texoma NATS Competition, was a finalist in the 2021 Colorado Bach

Ensemble Young Artist Competition, and won first prize in the 2021 GCC Series "Best Handel Performance." Recent roles include *La Contessa (Le nozze di Figaro)* at the University of North Texas, *Magda (La Rondine)* at Opera in the Ozarks, *La Musique (Les arts florissants)* with the Dallas Bach Society, *Mařenka (The Bartered Bride)* at the University of North Texas. Kara has performed as a featured soloist across the United States and is a featured soloist in three commercially recorded albums on the GIA Choralworks label.



BRIAN MENGLER, tenor, a first year master of music in vocal performance student under the tutelage of renowned tenor Professor William Joyner, is excited to be stepping onto the UNT stage for the first time as Prunier in *La Rondine*. Originally from Chicago, he has a BA in music education from North Central College, and served as an artist-in-residence at College of Charleston, as well as a rising artist with Charleston Opera Theater. Previous roles include Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*), Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Basilio (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and Chaplain of the Monastery (*Dialogues*

des Carmélites) all with College of Charleston. At North Central College he appeared as Prince Hilarion (*Princess Ida*), Andre (*Phantom of the Opera*), and Annas (*Jesus Christ Superstar*). Other credits include Eugene Rohnsdorf (*Csardas Princess*) with Chicago Folk Opera, Beppe (*Pagliacci*) with Sinfonietta Bel Canto, Aaron Schultz (*Legally Blonde*) with Big Noise Theater, King Triton (*The Little Mermaid*) with Stage Door Fine Arts, and Beast (*Beauty and the Beast*) with Norris Cultural Arts Center.



ZHIHUI PANG, tenor, originally from China, is currently a first-year GAC opera student at UNT under Dr. Carol Wilson. His recent roles include Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar; Prunier (*La Rondine*), Liberto (*The Coronation of Poppea*), the Governor (*Candide*) with Indiana University; Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) with Opera Lucca; and Don José (*Carmen*) with Chicago Summer Opera. He has performed opera scenes from *Faust* as

Faust and from *La fille du regiment* as Tonio. He has participated in the opera chorus of *Die Zauberflöte* and *Don Giovanni*, both with Indiana University. He was the winner of the Verdi Award of 2023 Orpheus Vocal Competition student group.



HAYEONG (JESSICA) PARK, mezzo-soprano, is a first-year master's student at the University of North Texas studying voice performance with Dr. Jeffrey Snider. She currently serves on the UNT Division of Vocal Studies Student Council for 2023–2024 season, is the representative of international students at UNT Opera, and a member of Opera on Tap North Texas. She made her debut as La Zelatrice (*Suor Angelica*) and Gherardino (*Gianni Schicchi*) at The Grand

Stand Music Festival MUZIKAI! in South Carolina. Her recent roles include Meg (*Falstaff*), Paquette (*Candide*), Flower Girl (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and upcoming roles are Suzy, Lolette (*La Rondine*), and covering Dorothée (*Cendrillon*) for this season with UNT Opera. She performs as a soprano scholar at a church in Dallas, and she was also a soprano soloist for Fanny Mendelssohn's *Hiob Cantata* concert with University Singers choir while she was studying voice and fashion merchandising during her undergraduate studies at the University of North Texas. She will perform in the chorus of *That Hellbound Train* with UNT Opera this semester.



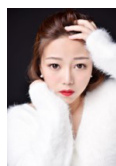
AVERY SANDERLIN, baritone, is a senior from Houston, Texas studying vocal performance under Dr. Carol Wilson at the University of North Texas. On stage, his "intelligent, wry, [and] subtle" stage presence complements what opera contemporaries hail as a "lush [and] warm baritone" sound. At UNT, he has performed various roles including Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*), Zuniga (*Carmen*), and Antonio (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and also understudied the role of Pandolfe (Massenet's *Cendrillon*). In December 2023, he was invited

to Wichita, KS to perform the role of Dr. Falke (*Die Fledermaus*) at Music On Site under the direction of Alex Sheerin and the baton of Robert Kahn. In addition to staged operas, he has also performed as the bass soloist in J. S. Bach's *Cantatas 106* and *150* with the Church of the Incarnation and the role of Sciarone in a concert production of *Tosca* with the UNT Symphony Orchestra.



ELEANOR WILLIAMS, mezzo-soprano, is a junior from Round Rock, Texas majoring in vocal performance with Professor Mary Mills. This past summer she attended the opera scenes program Respiro in New York, where she performed the role of Charlotte (*Werther*). Recent roles include Hansel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) in UNT Opera's scenes program and chorus (*Le nozze di Figaro*). This fall she will perform the role of fifth spirit as well as participate in the chorus of UNT Opera's *Cendrillon*, and

upcoming roles with UNT Opera include Bianca (*La Rondine*) and Landlady (*That Hellbound Train*).



XINJIN YANG, soprano, is a DMA student from Hunan, China studying vocal performance with Dr. Carol Wilson. Throughout her career, Xinjin has embodied a diverse range of iconic operatic roles. Her performances have included the roles of Micaëla (*Carmen*), Ludmila (*The Bartered Bride*), Cio-cio san (*Madama Butterfly*), Mimì (*La bohème*), and Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*). With each portrayal, Xinjin skillfully showcases

her impressive vocal range and brings a depth of emotion that leaves audiences spellbound.

CHORUS



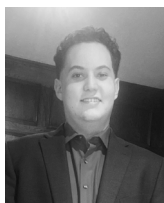
ABIGAIL BAHNG, mezzo-soprano, is a sophomore from Houston, Texas. She is currently studying vocal performance with Dr. Jeffrey Snider and is a member of the UNT A Cappella Choir. This is her first year in the UNT Opera program. This season she will be in the chorus for both *Cendrillon* and *La Rondine*, an Echo in *Hansel und Gretel*, and she was the understudy for Lillian in the recent production of *That Hellbound Train*.



BEN BASSETT, baritone, is a sophomore from Katy, Texas studying vocal performance with Prof. William Joyner. This past spring, Ben was given the award for 2nd place in the DFW NATS Competition for classical music. One of Ben's recent roles was The Phantom (*The Phantom of the Opera*) with his high school. Upcoming roles for Ben include Crebillon (*La Rondine*) and the roles of the Judge and the 'Suave dude' (*That Hell-Bound Train*) all with UNT Opera.

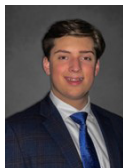


JAMES DICKENS II, tenor, is a first year master's student in vocal performance from Denton, Texas, studying with Professor Jennifer Lane. Current roles include Adolfo understudy (*La Rondine*) and Leader (*That Hellbound Train*).



GAVIN GODBEY, tenor, from Carrollton, Texas, is a first year vocal performance major studying with Dr. Jeffrey Snider. This is his third production with UNT opera, and the fifth one of his career. His previous credits include the Party Man (*The Tender Land*), Voci Interne (*Otello*), and Chorus in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The Bartered Bride* and *L'elisir d'amore*. He attended Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, and

he also received third place in NATS as a first year student where he also competed in the Musical Theatre, Commercial and Chapters programs, and very soon will compete in the Nationals for NATS. At UNT, he has covered the role of Don Curzio (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and sang Tamino in the quintet from *Die Zauberflöte* as part of the UNT Opera Scenes program. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include 1st Ministre and chorus in *Cendrillon*, Adolfo and chorus in *La Rondine* and he will be performing as The Wailing Tenor and chorus in Lisa DeSpain's *That Hell-Bound Train*.



CHRISTOPHER GRAY, bass-baritone, is a sophomore from Dallas, Texas studying voice with Dr. Stephen Morscheck. He has been in choir for eight years and is employed as a bass choral scholar at University Park United Methodist Church. This past summer, he performed as Gaston (*Beauty and the Beast*) with *In The Wings* at Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church in Flower Mound, Texas. This year, Christopher is a member of the A Cappella Choir.



NATALIE HARLOS, mezzo-soprano, hails from Fort Worth, Texas as a junior transfer student, currently studying as a vocal performance major under Ms. Mary Mills. In 2022, she was part of Mid-America Production's Grand Chorus at Carnegie Hall as a soprano singer under the direction of Amity Bryson from Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri. She also performed a solo in honor of the inauguration of the Cottey College president's ceremony in Nevada, Missouri. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include chorus in *La Rondine*.



JADEN JACKSON-COOPER, bass-baritone, is a junior from Houston, Texas. He studies vocal performance with William Joyner. Jaden is a member of ΦMA Sinfonia, current music director and historian of the Gamma Theta Chapter. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include the chorus in *Cendrillon*, *La Rondine*, and *That Hell-Bound Train*.



MADISON JUNEAU, soprano, is a senior from Bridge City, Texas studying choral music education and vocal performance under the direction of Dr. Carol Wilson. Most recently Madison has performed in the chorus (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and as assistant stage manager (*Carmen*) for UNT Opera. Last spring for her junior recital, she sang the role of Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*). With UNT Opera, she will perform as Spirit 7 and in the chorus (*Cendrillon*) this fall and the role of Violet and in the chorus (*That Hell-Bound Train*) this spring.



CHRISTINA NOELLE LOPEZ, soprano, from McAllen, Texas, is a junior studying under Dr. Stephen Morscheck. She began her musical journey with Mexican folk music before being exposed to opera and pursuing an education in classical music. During Covid, Christina participated in the Curtis Institute of Music Mentorship Program and the Tanglewood Institute. In 2021, she attended the Orvieto Vocal Academy in Bodrum, Turkey as a soloist student. The same year, she placed in the semifinals for the 2021 NATS held in Denton, Texas. Christina has been in the chorus for UNT's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.



ETHAN MATOUS, baritone, is a junior from Temple, Texas, studying vocal performance with Dr. Daniel Bubeck. He has recently transferred from his hometown school Temple College, where he performed the roles of Luke (*The Lightning Thief*) and Papageno (*The Magic Flute*). Most recently, he performed the role of Squidward in *The Spongebob Musical* with Temple Civic Theatre. Ethan was the 1st place winner of the 2022 South Texas NATS Competition in the Freshman Classical TBB category and was a member of the TTCCDA Honor Choir in both 2022 and 2023.



ERICA VANESSA MENASCO is a Venezuelan-American soprano from Cypress, Texas studying with Dr. Jeffrey Snider. She is in her third year of school studying vocal performance at UNT. Recently, Erica performed in Theater Denton's *Beauty and the Beast* and UNT Opera's *Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera are Cantore and chorus in *La Rondine* and serving as the Stage Manager for *Hänsel und Gretel*. This summer, she will be performing in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* as the Second Spirit in the Festival Lyrique International located in Villefranche-de-Rouergue.



RUDY POLK, tenor, 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 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.



KATIE GRACE STEPHENSON, soprano, is a junior from Fort Worth, Texas studying vocal performance with Professor William Joyner. With UNT Opera, she will perform in the choruses of *Cendrillon*, *La Rondine*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *That Hell-Bound 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.



DIANE TISCAREÑO, mezzo-soprano, is a third year vocal performance major at the University of North Texas. She is a vocal student of Ms. Mary Mills. Upcoming roles with UNT Opera include chorus in *La Rondine*.



TYLER WARWAS, tenor, is a sophomore vocal performance major from McAllen, Texas studying under Dr. Carol Wilson. Recent roles and engagements include chorus and Courtier (*Cendrillon*), chorus (*La Rondine*), chorus and Young Martin-understudy (*That Hell-Bound Train*), all with UNT Opera. This summer he will sing Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with Varna International Music Academy in Columbia, SC. Last semester,

he was named a finalist in the Texoma NATS chapter vocal competition.

SIDNEY WASHINGTON, tenor, is a senior at UNT studying vocal performance with Dr. Stephen Morschek. Sidney is making his operatic debut in *Cendrillon*. His upcoming role with UNT Opera is Gobin (*La Rondine*). He will also participate in the chorus for *That Hell-Bound Train*.



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



MOISES YBABÉN-BURCIAGA, tenor, is a junior from Seminole, Texas studying vocal performance with Professor Nereida García. He is double majoring in music education and sings with UNT's University Singers. He currently holds a UNT Excellence Scholarship. He has sung in the chorus in UNT Opera's production of *Le nozze di Figaro* in the fall of 2022. This

is his second season at UNT Opera.

DANCERS

JOSHUA DABNEY, dancer, born and raised in the DFW metroplex, has trained in dance since the age of ten in a myriad of styles including, but not limited to, ballet, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, modern and tap. Dabney joined a competitive dance company at age eleven and won numerous regional and national titles throughout the course of his competitive career. He is currently continuing his dance training at the University of North Texas where he is double majoring in dance and marketing. During his collegiate dance career, he has had the pleasure of performing works by FlockWorks, Hailey Summers, and Laja Martin, in addition to performing in the regional conference of the American College Dance Association. After graduation, Dabney hopes to perform in a contemporary ballet company while pursuing choreographic endeavors with local studios and dance companies. He also hopes to explore the marketing world through consultation and find ways to bring dance to the forefront as a means of entertainment to the masses.



JASMIN NIKKOLE GOATES, dancer, started dancing at 6 years old and continued training until 15. She graduated from Cisco High School and soon after moved to Abilene, TX. After taking a 10-year break from dance, Goates rediscovered her passion for movement and choreography, quickly resuming her artistic journey. She graduated with her associate of arts degree in 2020 before auditioning for UNT Dance. Goates is now a senior in the UNT Dance and Theatre Department and will graduate in May 2024. After graduating, she plans to move to Las

Vegas and pursue her dance career in the commercial dance industry. She particularly looks forward to her work in hip-hop and contemporary, involved in music videos, commercials, and backup dancing.

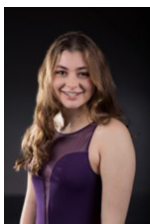


ANNALI POTTER, dancer, trained at Sheena's Dance Academy in Frisco, TX from the age of 5. She is experienced in various styles including ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, hip hop, musical theater. She continues her practice at the University of North Texas as a dance minor. Additionally, she is in pursuit of a BA in mathematics to be a future math educator. At a young age, Potter fell in love with dance as a form of artistry. She trained in studio performance and competitive dance setting and has performed

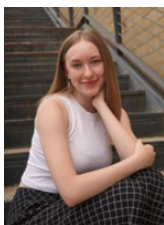
with the Frisco Ballet annually since 2012. She has attended summer intensives at the American Academy of Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, Ballet Austin, and Avant Chamber Ballet. Potter has danced with companies and conventions including The Frisco Ballet, SDA Competition Company, and The Dance Effect. Currently, her practice focuses on dance storytelling and interpersonal connection. Recently, she performed at UNT's New Choreographers Concert, The Frisco Ballet's *Nutcracker*, and UNT's Spring Dance Concert. In the future, Potter hopes to continue to perform and be a dance instructor.



RILEY RESPONDEK, dancer, is a junior at UNT working towards a bachelor's degree in theatre with a minor in dance. Before starting at UNT, Respondek danced at Lynn Bates School of Dance in Wharton, Texas for 14 years, where she fell in love with dance. Since then, she's taken her dancing endeavors to the stage both in the Denton community and at home, appearing most recently in the ensemble in Theatre Denton's *White Christmas* and most notably as Dance Captain in the Wharton Plaza Theatre's *Anything Goes*. She is excited to join UNT Opera's *La Rondine*!



BAYLIE STEVENSON, dancer, was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley where she first started dancing at the age of three. Stevenson trained at Brownsville Dance Center, where she also held a spot in the studio's elite company and performed various roles in their pre-professional Storybook Ballet Company. Stevenson has had opportunities to teach dance in the styles of ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, and lyrical/contemporary. In 2019, she was promoted to the school's junior company assistant instructor. She is currently a B.A. candidate pursuing dance with a minor in marketing at the University of North Texas. Overall, Stevenson is extremely passionate about dance and enjoys sharing her love of the art with others. She hopes to pursue a career in performance and teaching post-graduation. It is important to her that dance is present in her life for as long as possible. Without dance, there would be no Baylie!



AVA TOWNSLEY, dancer, was born and raised in Arlington, Texas and began her dance training at the age of five at Stagedoor Dance Centre (SDC) in Mansfield, Texas. There, she began competitively dancing from the ages of eight to eighteen, in diverse styles of ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical/contemporary, hip-hop, and musical theatre. After assisting the faculty at SDC for many years, she had the opportunity to choreograph and teach at the studio starting in the 2023 season. She is currently studying dance with a minor in English at the University of North Texas, where she has had a multitude of opportunities to perform in their concerts. She hopes to pursue a career in dance performance, from Broadway to commercial to concert performance, and to spread her love and passion for dance with others while serving the community.