

LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S

Trouble in Tahiti



GEORGE BIZET'S

DR. MIRACLE



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 | 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | 3 PM

TROUBLE IN TAHITI CAST

(in order of appearance)

Trio

Ina Torres O’Ryan
Kevin Neace
Nathaniel McBride

Dinah

Brianna Reilly

Sam

Bradley Sowell

DR. MIRACLE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Le Podesta

Sullivan Ojala Helmbolt

Veronique

Meghan Burroughs (Friday)
Ellen Mitchell (Sunday)

Laurette

Cayce Murphy (Friday)
Emily Hale (Sunday)

Silvio

T.J. Turner

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director & Producer
Benjamin Wayne Smith

Music Director & Conductor
Stephen Karr

Assistant Stage Director
Camden Kegley

Assistant Conductor
Fabia Schneider

Scenic Designer
Amy Healey

Lighting Designer and Technical Director
Jeremy Fisher

Costume Designer
Amie Eoff

Stage Manager
Shannon Jongema

Rehearsal Pianist
Alex Benford

Scenic Charge Artist
Amy Forester Da Silva

Production Assistant
Rachel Farmer

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FLUTE + PICCOLO

Catherine Balsamo, principal
(Bernstein)
Mackenzie Saylor, principal
(Bizet)

OBOE, ENGLISH HORN

Ty Matthews, principal

CLARINET

Mark Allen, principal
Kendall Howard

E-FLAT CLARINET, BASS

CLARINET

Mark Allen

BASSOON,

CONTRABASSOON

Tina Hazell, principal

HORN

James Currence, principal
(Bernstein)
Madeline Miller, principal (Bizet)

TRUMPET

Lacey Peschel, principal
(Bernstein)
Yiming Zhang, principal (Bizet)

TROMBONE

Nathan Hiers, principal

TIMPANI

Dwight Vandevate

PERCUSSION

Dwight Van de Vate, principal
Kate Bingham

VIOLIN I

Michael Brennan,
concertmaster
Sofia Alvarado
Elizabeth Betrous
Lindsay Keck
Isabella Palmer

VIOLIN II

Noel Medford, principal
Emily Cooley
Anne Reeman
Keiber Utrera

VIOLA

Matthew Finley, principal
Svetlana Choumiatsky
Vivian McDermott

CELLO

Christine Sears, principal
Bryan Edward Henderson
Abigail Powell
Roberta dos Santos

BASS

Garrett Kirk, principal
Liam O'Dell

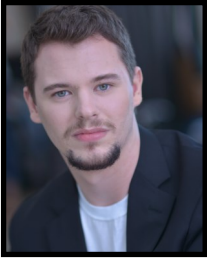
TROUBLE IN TAHITI CAST



Brianna Reilly (Dinah)

Brianna Reilly, mezzo-soprano, is pursuing both a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance. Her past operatic engagements include Dido (*Dido & Aeneas*), Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Flosshilde (*Das Rheingold*), Carmen (*Carmen*), Ježibaba (*Rusalka*), Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), and Mrs. Nolan (*The Medium*).

This season, she will be competing in the Idaho-Montana District of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition; appear as Dritte Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), La Zelatrice (*Suor Angelica*), as well as in the chorus (*Così fan tutte*) with Music on Site, Inc.; and in the chorus (*Tosca*) with Opera Memphis. As an up-and-coming singer, Brianna's mission is to use her vibrant performances to instill her love of classical music into anyone that she can. She appreciates everyone who has supported her in her academic and professional career, and especially wants to thank Bob, Margaret, Keynen, and Josiah for always being her biggest fans!



Bradley Sowell (Sam)

Bradley Sowell is currently in the third year of the doctoral program at the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. He also is an Adjunct Professor of Voice at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Sowell recently performed in *Le nozze di Figaro* as Count Almaviva in Salzburg, Austria for the Austrian American Mozart Academy. His current season includes Sam in Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* (University of Memphis), baritone soloist for Faure's *Requiem* (Germantown United Methodist Church), and Dançaïre in Bizet's *Carmen* (Music on Site-Kansas).

Mr. Sowell received his Master of Music from the University of South Dakota and his Bachelor of Music Education from Georgia College.



Ina Torres O'Ryan (Trio)

Ina Torres O'Ryan, a Maryland native, is a freelance mezzo-soprano and cellist currently studying at the University of Memphis with Prof. Mary Wilson and Dr. Kimberly Patterson. Prior to moving to Tennessee, Ina lived in Minnesota, where she was a rostered cellist and chorus member of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony and Opera while completing her bachelor's at Concordia College. She has performed in ensembles for conductors such as René Clausen, Edward Maclary, Kevin Sütterlin, Chris Zimmerman, and Marin Alsop. This past year, Ina

competed and won the Concordia College Senior Honors Concerto & Aria Competition on voice with an honorable mention on cello. As a result, she had the opportunity to sing "Parto, ma tu ben mio" from Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* with the Concordia Orchestra in February 2022. When Ina is not involved in music, she enjoys making ceramics and baking with her partner.

TROUBLE IN TAHITI CAST



Nathaniel McBride (Trio)

Baritone Nathaniel McBride's repertoire spans from early classical to contemporary, as well as musical theater. Recent performances include covering the role of Jupiter in *Orphée aux enfers* with Opera Company of Middlebury and Guglielmo from *Così fan tutte* with Opera Lucca. Along with roles such as Pangloss from *Candide* and Duparquet from Hahn's *Ciboulette* under the direction of Catherine Malfitano and Shostakovich's *Moscow, Cheryomushki* as Drebednev and Mr. Milkin under the direction of Donna Vaughn. Musical theater experience include

performances as Chip from *On the Town* and Shrek in *Shrek, the Musical* directed by Carolyn Marlow.

Appearances in the concert arena include performances with the New York Philharmonic, the Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra and the Mostly Mozart Festival. In the spring of 2023, he will also be performing as Marcello in *La bohème* with University of Memphis. Nathaniel earned his Bachelor's of Music degree at Manhattan School of Music studying with Mark Oswald and a Master's of Music from Carnegie Mellon. He is currently studying with Matthew Burns as he completes his Doctor of Musical Arts at University of Memphis. Feeling at home in both metropolitan areas, as well as at his family's dairy farm, Nathaniel is a native of Enon Valley, Pennsylvania.



Kevin Neace (Trio)

Kevin Neace, tenor, is thrilled to make his debut at University of Memphis as a member of the Trio in *Trouble in Tahiti*. He is originally from Alton, IL, and is pursuing a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis under the instruction of Dr. Randal Rushing. Kevin completed his Bachelor of Music in Vocal

Performance at Wheaton College in 2022, where he studied with Dr. Carolyn Hart.

DR. MIRACLE CAST



His past roles include Fabrizio (*The Light in the Piazza*) in 2020, Don Basilio (*Le nozze di Figaro*) in 2021, and Defendant/Judge (*Trial by Jury*) in 2022. Kevin hopes to continue a wide career in music, crossing multiple fields and settings.

T.J. Turner (Silvio)

Tenor T.J. Turner made his Broadway debut in Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway* at the Lunt- Fontanne Theatre in New York, NY. His favorite roles include Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*, William Barfee in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Enoch Snow in *Carousel*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, and Sam in *Susannah*. Mr. Turner has performed with Renee Fleming and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra as well as Opera Memphis this season.

Mr. Turner holds degrees in Voice Performance from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, and Furman University, Greenville, SC. He will complete his coursework for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance and Opera Stage Directing in fall 2022. He is currently Instructor of Voice and Recital Coordinator at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, MS. www.toddjaredturner.com



Sullivan Ojala Helmbolt (Le Podesta)

Sullivan Ojala Helmbolt, baritone, lauded by the Minneapolis Star Tribune as "a strutting, silky toned and frighteningly entitled figure," in his performance of the villain Tarquinius in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* is an experienced interpreter of music of the 20th century and onward. He has had the pleasure of performing

some of Benjamin Britten's other baritone roles including Sid in *Albert Herring* and Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*.

Sullivan also appeared as the medical student at the forefront of the student resistance to the Nazis, Hans Scholl, in a black box production of the underperformed two-person opera *Die weisse Rose* by Udo Zimmermann.



Cayce Murphy (Laurette)

Cayce Murphy, soprano, is a first-year graduate student born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia. She is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Memphis, studying under Professor Mary Wilson, soprano. Cayce possesses a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education (K-12) and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Vocal Performance from Marshall University where she studied under the tutelage of Dr. Alexander Lee, tenor. Although being classically trained with solo and choral background, Cayce has experience within art song, opera, oratorio, musical theatre, and contemporary repertoire. Opera credits include Belinda in Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*, Little Red in Barab's *Little Red Riding Hood*, Papagena in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, and Hansel in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*. She is excited to be making her UofM

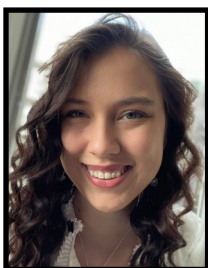
DR. MIRACLE CAST



Emily Hale (Laurette)

In addition to her passion for music education, soprano Emily Hale has proven a favorite with audiences in her hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. Emily Hale has been praised for her “sparkling stage presence” and voice that “charms and thrills.” Emily’s passion for music began early—by the age of four, she already knew she was destined for the stage. As a girl growing up in Memphis, she honed her skills by singing in church choirs and local competitions before discovering opera in high school and unearthing a passion for classical music. This is Emily’s first operatic role,

and she looks forward to many more in the future. In January 2023, Emily will appear in *Tosca* with Opera Memphis as a member of the chorus.



Meghan Burroughs (Veronique)

With her warm, dynamic voice, and background in psychology, Meghan Burroughs is a fascinating storyteller through her characterization and music.

Meghan’s operatic roles include Mary (*The Nefarious, Immoral but Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke & Mr. Hare*), Kaylee (*Speed Dating Tonight!*), and Street Singer (*Mass*) with Lawrence University.; scenes from the roles of Virtu (*L’incoronazione di Poppea*), Fountain (*Ainadamar*), and Secretary (*The Consul*) with Lawrence University.

Meghan is delighted to be pursuing her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Memphis this fall, studying under Dr. Paulina Villareal. She also holds her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance under Ms. Esteli Gomez along with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.



Ellen Mitchell (Veronique)

Ellen Mitchell is a mezzo-soprano noted for her warm sound and expressive singing. She is thrilled to be bringing Veronique to life in this exciting production of *Dr. Miracle*.

Most recently, she was seen as Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* with the University of South Alabama Opera Theatre. Other stage appearances include chorus performances in *Tosca* and *Carmen* with Mobile Opera, chorus performances of *Cendrillon* and *Tosca*, and as a featured performer in Sounds of the Season with Opera Birmingham. Ms. Mitchell has a passion for choral music

and oratorio and is thrilled to be a mezzo soloist in Vivaldi’s *Gloria* with Second Presbyterian Church this December. She had the pleasure of participating in the recent residency of The Gesualdo Six at the University of Memphis. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Samford University and a master’s from the University of South Alabama.

Outside of singing opera, she is a strong advocate of good singing in all styles and genres, teaching students of all ages. Ms. Mitchell is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Opera, while working as a graduate teaching assistant in commercial voice lessons.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Ben Smith, Stage Director & Producer

Stage Director Benjamin Wayne Smith has made a career leading new productions ranging from Pergolesi's *La serva padrona* to Conrad Susa's *The Dangerous Liaisons*. He brings a balance of practical experience and innovative storytelling to his projects, which have been hailed by Opera News as "full of comic inventiveness."

Ben has directed for Opera Memphis, Mobile Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, Tacoma Opera, Asheville Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, The Intermountain Opera Association, the Young

Artist Program at Pittsburgh Opera, the University of Cincinnati/CCM, Baldwin Wallace University and The Opera Theater of Lucca, Italy.

In 2013 Ben was appointed Artistic Director of the Accademia Vocale Lorenzo Malfatti, a summer training program for young singers in Lucca, Italy. Ben joined the faculty at Baldwin Wallace University in 2010 as their first full time Director of Opera. In 2015, he joined the faculty at the University of Memphis.

He began his career in opera as a singer, performing twenty-one leading roles in opera, operetta and musical theater. He has logged over 250 performances in the U.S. and Italy.

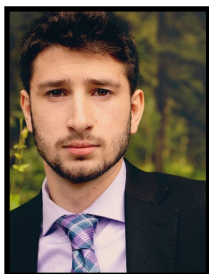


Stephen Karr, Music Director & Conductor

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Stephen Karr is a compelling interpreter of opera and orchestral works. In 2011, he co-founded Pacific Opera Project, for which he was music director until 2016. With POP, he led productions of *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *La Calisto* (LA premiere), *Ariadne auf Naxos* and *The Rake's Progress* (LA professional premiere), among others. The Los Angeles Times praised his performance of the Stravinsky as having kept orchestra, cast and chorus on "well-articulated rhythmic track." He has worked with the OPERA Iowa tour, the Glimmerglass Festival, Opera New Jersey and Palm Beach Opera.

Karr has taught at Chapman University, Michigan State University, USC and UCLA. His schooling includes degrees in organ performance (Mercer University and Westminster Choir College) and orchestral conducting (UCLA). He has recently begun the position of Opera Music Director at the University of Memphis.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Camden Kegley, Assistant Stage Director **—Trouble in Tahiti**

Camden Kegley, tenor, was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and is Senior Voice Performance major at the University of Memphis. Last year he had the opportunity to perform the role of Despard in the University of Memphis' production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore* and Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro*. This winter he is performing in the chorus of the Opera Memphis production of *Tosca* and the role of the Page in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with St. George Episcopal Church.

This is his second time assistant directing with University of Memphis. When Camden is not singing, he enjoys rock climbing, playing board games, and studying Italian.



Shannon Jongema, Stage Manager

With her warm, expressive voice, dynamic stage presence, and conscientious attention to each musical detail, soprano Shannon Jongema is a mesmerizing storyteller on opera and concert stages alike. This season, Shannon is delighted to be performing the role of Mimi in *La bohème* at the University of Memphis as well as singing in the chorus of *Tosca* with Opera Memphis and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with St. George's Episcopal Church.

Shannon's other operatic credits include the roles of Lucy (*The Telephone*) and Mrs. Gobineau (*The Medium*) with Musical Traditions, Inc.; scenes from the role of Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with Musiktheater Bavaria; and scenes from the roles of Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Mabel (*The Pirates of Penzance*) at Rollins College. Shannon is currently pursuing her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Vocal Performance at the University of Memphis, studying under Professor Mary Wilson. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Rollins College where she studied under Dr. Caitlin Mohr.

CREW

Stage Crew

Ryley Wayne
Dyland McFarland

Sound Technician

Dennis Rogers

Wardrobe Crew/Costume Assistant

Brigette Hutchison

Carpenter

Aaron Chang

SPECIAL THANKS

Kevin Sanders
Ryan Fisher
Mary Wilson
Paulina Villareal
Randal Rushing
Matthew Burns
Harvey Felder
Brian Ruggaber
Theresa Winkelmann
Jacob Allen
Ned Canty
Sarah Squire
Jennifer Gillette
Becky Casperson
Tennessee Shakespeare Company
Germantown Community Theater



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Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

Holiday Concert

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Bluff City Brass Quintet
Mazi -Soprano/ Alto Choir
Tigerchor - Tenors / Bass Choir

Featuring Mary Wilson

With special guests from Stax Music Academy

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