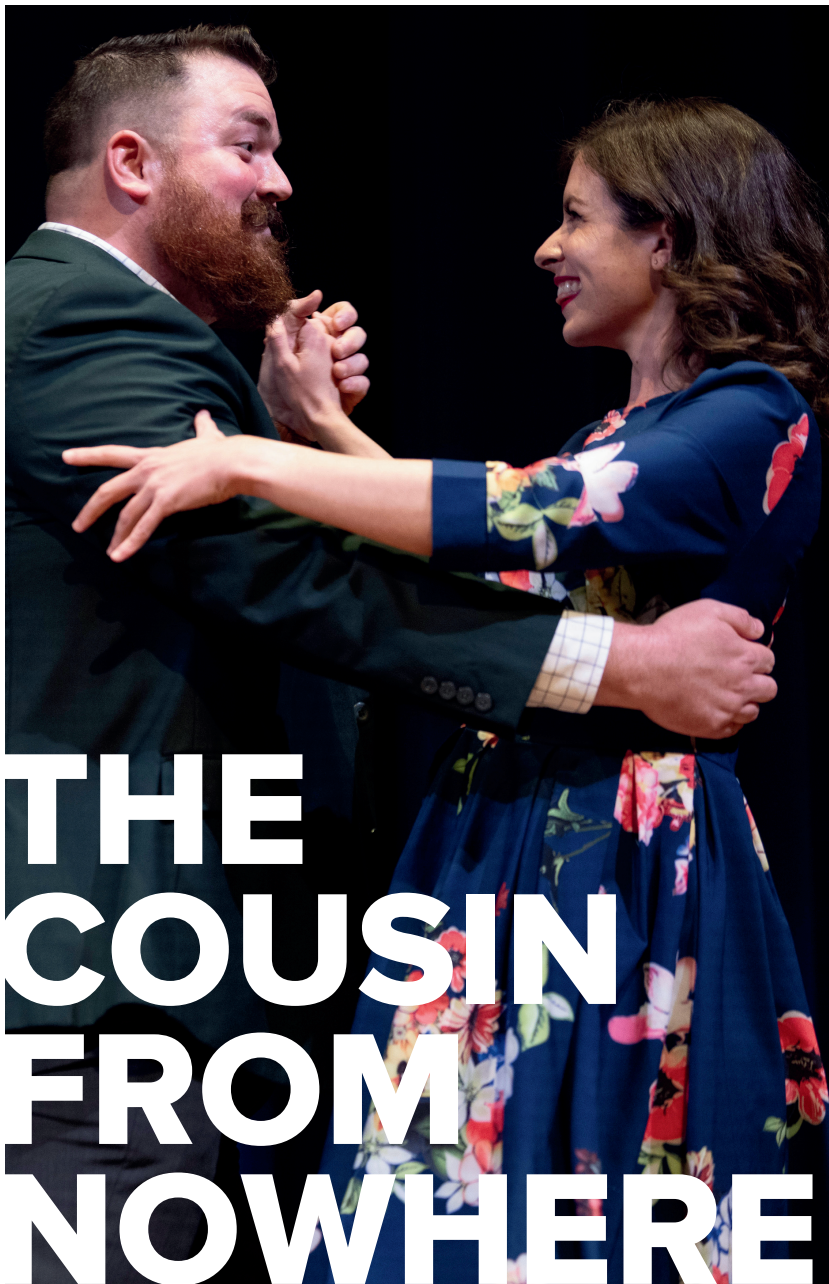


UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS OPERA



RUDI E. SCHEIDT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

THE COUSIN FROM NOWHERE

NOVEMBER 17 + 19

SCHEIDT FAMILY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

PROGRAM

Julia de Weert, a young woman about to inherit a fortune

Shannon Jongema

Hannchen, her best friend

Katrina Cole

Josef Kuhbrot, Julia's uncle and guardian

Dennis Ryan

Wimpel, Josef's (long-suffering) wife

Ina Torres O'Ryan

Egon von Wildenhagen, the Mayor's son, in love with Julia

Kevin Neace

A Stranger

Philip Andrew Himebook

A Second Stranger

Darius Taylor

Hans, the butler

Jonathan Rhoades

Karlotta, the maid

Caroline Davis

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director and Producer

Ben Smith

Music Director and Conductor

Stephen Karr

Choreographer

Shelbi Sellers

Supertitles Manager

Meghan Burroughs

Lighting Designer and
Technical Director

Jeremy Fisher

Property Master

B. Wayne Smith

Scenic Designer

Amy Healey

Costume Assistant/Wardrobe

Brigette Hutchison

Costume Designer

Amie Eoff

Head Electrician

Miki McCormick

Assistant Conductor

Fabian Schneider

Carpenters

Blake Helis

Sheric Hall

Stage Manager

Jasmine Simmers

Stage Crew

Edlyn Jarquin

Dominic Abayem

Scenic Charge Artist

Andy Cline

Allison Carter

ORCHESTRA

Flute

Olivia Remak, principal
Mackenzie Saylor

Oboe

Ty Matthews, principal
Jesús Arturo Salazar

Clarinet

Fernando Martínez, principal
Desmon Taylor

Bassoon

Tina Hazell, principal
Jonathan Gomez

Horn

James Currence, principal
Jimmy Rhine

Trumpet

Yiming Zhang, principal
Oliver Buckley

Trombone

Cassidy Shiflett-Cockrell, principal
Lavonte Smith

Bass Trombone

Cal Elrod

Timpani

Mario Shaw, principal

Percussion

Susannah Clabough, principal
Daniel Padron

Harp

Frances Cobb, principal

Banjo

Jess Julian, principal

Celesta

Lien Nguyen, principal

Violin I

Sofia Alvarado, concertmaster
Abby Webber, associate concertmaster
Sarah Enoch
Gabby Gregory
Zoe Johnson
Lindsay Keck
Isabella Palmer

Violin II

Keiber Utrera, principal
Catherina Baum
Emily Cooley
Dario Santos
Claude Spivey
Langston Suggs

Viola

Noel Medford, principal
Andrew McGuire
Dane Perugini-Cripps

Violoncello

Christine Sears, principal
Ella Bondar
Bryan Edward Henderson
Ava Ray
Jacob Saunders
Nazira Wali

Contrabass

Joshua Shepard, principal
Aniyya Deny
Ebony Grace Gipson

MEET THE CAST



Shannon Jongema (Julia)

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. Shannon has recently been seen on stage as Mimi in *La bohème* at the University of Memphis; Mme. Silberklang in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, Suor Dolcina and Suor Osmina in *Suor Angelica*, and soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* with Varna International Music Academy; soprano soloist in *Elijah* with Rhodes MasterSingers; as well as Lucy in *The Telephone* and Mrs. Gobineau in *The Medium* with Musical Traditions, Inc. Shannon is currently pursuing her Master of Music and Doctorate 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 and Professor Amy Gifford.



Philip Andrew Himebook (A Stranger)

Philip Andrew Himebook is a DMA student at the University of Memphis. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Toccoa Falls College and a Master of Music in vocal performance from the University of Memphis. He has performed in multiple shows and operas in the Memphis area, and serves as the full-time music director at Grace Community Church in Cordova, TN.



Katrina Cole (Hannchen)

Katrina Cole (Hannchen) is excited to make her University of Memphis Opera debut this fall. This past summer, Ms. Cole participated in the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival where she performed the role of Second Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte*. Ms. Cole is a recent graduate of Penn State University where she studied vocal performance with Dr. Rachel Copeland. While at Penn State, she performed the roles of Berta (formerly Bartolo) in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Blanche de la Force (cover with performance) in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. Ms. Cole is delighted to continue her studies at the University of Memphis pursuing her master's degree with Dr. Paulina Villarreal.



Dennis Ryan (Josef Kuhbrot)

Dennis is a native of Florida and received his Bachelor of Arts from Florida International University in 2015, a Master of Music in opera performance from the University of Kansas in 2018, an Artist Diploma from the Hartt School of Music in 2020, and is currently a Doctorate of Musical Arts Graduate Assistant at the University of Memphis. Recent engagements include, Sarastro with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, Commendatore with the Vienna Opera Festival, Commendatore with Theater Rudolstadt, Colline with Opera Connecticut, Dr. Grenvil with Opera Naples. He has performed the Jailor in *Tosca* with Florida Grand Opera, and had solo engagements with the Master Chorale of South Florida and the Symphony of the Americas. Mr. Ryan is singing Josef Kuhbrot this November in the University of Memphis' production of Edward Künneke's, *Der Vetter aus Dingsda*. Dennis will sing Leporello in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with the University of Memphis in April 2024.



Ina Torres O’Ryan (Wimpel)

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. Before 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, William Skoog, Kevin Sütterlin, and Marin Alsop. A passionate educator, Ina also maintains a private studio for voice and cello and has taught for several nonprofits in the Memphis area. She serves as Executive Director of Sinfonietta Memphis, an orchestra providing free music to the 901 area using historically informed performance practice. Ina’s next role will be Zerlina in the University of Memphis’s production of *Don Giovanni* in Spring 2024.



Kevin Neace (Egon Wildenhagen)

The child of singers, Kevin Neace, tenor, is originally from Alton, IL, and is well-versed in performance and production of multiple musical genres. Kevin completed his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at Wheaton College in 2022 and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis under the tutelage of Dr. Paulina Villareal. He will be performing the role of Don Ottavio in the upcoming April 2024 University of Memphis production of W. A. Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and has previously performed in the University of Memphis productions of *Trouble in Tahiti* and *La bohème*.

2024

MARQUEE CONCERTS

24
FEB

BIRTH OF THE COOL: FACULTY JAZZ NIGHT

Experience the brilliance of the jazz tradition presented by an extraordinary ensemble of award-winning musicians.

23
MARCH

NOTES + MELODIES: WINE AND MUSIC PAIRING

It's a night of harmonious convergence, where the finest in food, wine, and musical arts unite to create a truly unforgettable celebration.

02
APRIL

UNIVERSITY SINGERS "ASIMOV'S 3 LAWS OF ROBOTICS"

Be swept away on an imaginative musical journey built around a science fiction theme with a focal point on a piece composed by the Taiwanese-American musician Vienna Teng.

06
APRIL

SOUND FUZION

From Top 40 hits to R&B classics, hip-hop beats, rock anthems and country favorites, this dynamic ensemble promises a non-stop, high-energy performance that will have you dancing all night long.

19
21
APRIL

UNIVERSITY OPERA "DON GIOVANNI"

Embark on a journey through the complexities of love, seduction, morality, and retribution in a captivating performance of Mozart's masterpiece, "Don Giovanni."



Darius Taylor (The Second Stranger)

Darius Taylor is a native of Jackson, Tennessee and is thrilled to be attending the University of Memphis in pursuit of his Doctoral of Musical Arts. Some of Darius's favorite roles include Henry Davis (*Street Scene*), Marco (*Gianni Schicchi*), and Alcindoro (*La bohème*). Darius received his Master's of Music in Opera Performance from Arizona State University, and his Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Tennessee at Martin.



Caroline Davis (Karlotta)

Caroline was raised in Amarillo, TX where she was involved in choir and community theater. She moved to Germantown in 2017 where she continued her love of music by joining the Houston High Honor Choir and the theater program. As a junior vocal performance major, she has been involved in University Singers, Mazi, Chamber Choir, and this is her first semester in Opera. Caroline is thrilled to be taking the stage with her incredible cast mates and hopes you enjoy the show!



Jonathan Rhoades (Hans)

Jonathan Rhoades is a first-year master's student in vocal performance studying with Professor Matt Burns. Future roles with the University of Memphis Opera Studio include Mr. Gobineau in Menotti's *The Medium* and Masetto in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. He previously taught 6th-8th grade choir, music appreciation, and theater in Snyder, Texas. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education from Oklahoma State University in 2020, where he studied with Professor Steve Sanders. He participated in OSU Opera for three years, performing the roles Dater #11 and the Bartender in Michael Ching's *Speed Dating Tonight* and Brack Weaver in Kurt Weill's *Down in the Valley*. In June 2019, he participated in the Taos Opera Institute under the direction of Mary Jane Johnson.

Jonathan Rhoades hopes to pursue a Doctor of Musical Arts upon graduating from the University of Memphis to teach at the university level and perform at the highest level.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Stephen Karr, Music Director and Conductor

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Stephen Karr is a compelling interpreter of opera and orchestral works. He is in his season as Opera Music Director at the University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, where last season he led productions of a double-bill of Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and Georges Bizet's *Dr. Miracle*, as well as the inaugural fully-staged opera in the university's new Scheidt Family Performing Arts Center, Giacomo Puccini's *La bohème*. He also made his debut in May with Opera Memphis and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, conducting the season-closing production of *The Falling and the Rising* with music by Zach Redler and libretto by Jerre Dye. This year, he conducts the mid-south premiere of Eduard Künneke's *The Cousin from Nowhere* and W. A. Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

In recent seasons, he has appeared with Anchorage Opera, the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, and the Parnassus Chamber Orchestra. As Associate Conductor and Artistic Administrator for Long Beach Opera, he was cover conductor and prompter for 2019's world premiere production of *The Central Park Five* by Anthony Davis and Richard Wesley, which went on to win the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Music. He is a co-editor for the first critical performing edition of Joseph Bologne's *L'Amant Anonyme*, which, after its premiere at LA Opera in 2020, has seen many productions around the US and in Europe.

In 2011, he co-founded the Pacific Opera Project and was the 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 many other titles. The Los Angeles Times praised his performance of the Stravinsky as having kept orchestra, cast and chorus on a "well-articulated rhythmic track." He has also been on staff with the OPERA Iowa tour, the Glimmerglass Festival, Opera New Jersey and Palm Beach Opera.

Stephen 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 is a resident of Memphis, Tennessee.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Ben Smith, Stage Director and Producer

Ben has directed for Opera Memphis, Indianapolis Opera, Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, Intermountain Opera Bozeman, Mobile Opera, Tacoma Opera, Asheville Lyric Opera, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, 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. Since 2015, he has been the Opera Stage Director at the University of Memphis. He has taught master classes for singing actors in the U.S. and China.

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.

ABOUT PRODUCTION TEAM



Shebli Sellers, Choreographer

Shelbi Sellers is an actress, singer, dancer, and choreographer from Memphis, Tennessee. She holds a Bachelor's and a Master's of Music with a minor in theatre from the University of Memphis. She enjoys being a singer of many styles including opera, cabaret, art song, jazz, and musical theatre. On the stage, Shelbi has performed in *Something Rotten!*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Great Comet* (POTS), *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Ruddigore*, *Oklahoma!* (University of Memphis), *Mamma Mia!* (Theatre Memphis), *Head Over Heels* (Circuit Playhouse) and more. She is currently the Director of Partnerships at Opera Memphis. *Micah 6:8*

ABOUT PRODUCTION TEAM

Jeremy Allen Fisher,

Technical Director and Lighting Designer

Jeremy Allen Fisher Resident Lighting Designer for Tennessee Shakespeare Company 2014-present , Opera Memphis Resident Lighting Designer 2013-present. Jeremy is a member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829 and a graduate of Oklahoma City University. He has worked with Theatre Memphis, Youngblood Studios, Ballet Memphis, University of Memphis, Memphis' Orpheum Theatre, Seattle Opera, Desoto Family Theatre, New Day Children's Theatre, and New Ballet Ensemble. Some of his other credits include lighting Memphis' Broad Avenue Water Tower, Wisacre's downtown Taproom, and several works at Saint Jude's Research Hospital and Lebonheur Children's Hospital. Awards: 2017 TAC Individual Artist Award, and 11 Ostrander Award nominations with four wins for Lighting Designs.

Amy Healey, Scenic Designer

Amy Healey comes to set design from a fine art and opera performance background. She designed recent productions of *Ruddigore*, *Trouble in Tahiti/Dr. Miracle* and *La bohème* for the University of Memphis Opera Theatre. She lives and works in Annapolis, Maryland and her work can be seen at amyhealeyfineart.com.

Amie Eoff, Costume Designer

Amie Eoff (Costume Designer) is the current resident costume designer at Theatre Memphis. Formerly she has served as the costume shop supervisor at Rhodes College, and the resident costume designer for Circuit Playhouse. During her career she has received several Ostrander Awards for her costume and hair designs. She holds an MFA in costume design from the University of Southern Mississippi. Much love to Shea and the furry roommates for bearing the burden of her overly-busy schedule

ABOUT PRODUCTION TEAM



Jasmine Simmers, Stage Manager

Jasmine Simmers is a graduate of the University of Memphis (B.F.A. in Theatre Design and Technology). Some Stage Management credits: *Hamlet: Fall of the Sparrow*, *La bohème*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Back When Mike Was Kate*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *Macbeth*. Jasmine has worked with Playhouse on the Square, the University of Memphis, and B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Tennessee Shakespeare Company, and as a counselor and stage manager with Stagedoor Manor in Loch Sheldrake, NY.



Fabian Schneider, Assistant Conductor

Fabian Schneider grew up in Moehlin (Switzerland). Before starting his undergraduate studies in trumpet and conducting, he served for the Swiss Military Band. Afterwards, he studied with Prof. Christoph Rehli at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (Switzerland), earning his master's degree in conducting. In 2022, Fabian moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he is currently working on his doctoral degree in orchestral conducting with Prof. Harvey Felder and Dr. Stephen Karr. During his time in Switzerland, Fabian was music director of several community ensembles. In the US, he was a conducting Fellow at the Lutheran Summer Music Festival 2023, and has guest conducted Sinfonietta

SPECIAL THANKS

Bill Hardgrave

University of Memphis
President

Ryan Fisher

College of Communication and Fine Arts
Interim Dean

Kevin Sanders

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Director

Matthew Burns

Assistant Professor of Voice

Carlos Santelli

Assistant Professor of Voice

Paulina Villareal

Assistant Professor of Voice

Mary Wilson

Associate Professor of Voice

Jeremy Orosz

Associate Professor of Music Theory

Tennessee Shakespeare Company



Your Support is Instrumental

As we expand and enrich the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music offerings, we recognize the crucial role that resources play in our students' success.

Scholarships, pianos, percussion instruments and music industry equipment are indispensable tools for those pursuing a degree in music.

Whether you support the life-changing scholarships, the acquisition of instruments, the enhancement of rehearsal spaces, or the advancement of our music laboratories, your donation will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of music education.



SCAN TO DONATE



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

Scheidtacular
HOLIDAY CONCERT

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1
7:30 PM**

BRASS CHOIR | UNIVERSITY SINGERS | JAZZ SINGERS

Join us as we honor the recipient of the
Rudi and Honey Scheidt Legacy Award.

PURCHASE TICKETS AT MEMPHIS.EDU/MUSIC



SFPAC

SCHEIDT FAMILY
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

3800 CENTRAL AVE., MEMPHIS, TN 38111