



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS®

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS OPERA DEPARTMENT
presents:

OPERA GALA

FEATURING

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

APRIL 25, 2026 | 7 PM

SFPAC SCHEIDT FAMILY
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Jacob Allen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Deb Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Dich, teure Halle
from Tannhäuser

Richard Wagner
Text: Richard Wagner

Maria Fasciano, Elisabeth

"Lock" Quintet
from Die Zauberflöte

W. A. Mozart
Text: Emanuel Schikaneder

Hannah Warta, First Lady
Xinwei Wang, Second Lady
M.J. Britton, Third Lady
Richie Lisenby, Tamino
Anthony Valle, Papageno

Au fond du temple saint
from Les pêcheurs de perles

Georges Bizet
Text: Eugène Cormon and Michel Carré

Philip Himebook, Nadir
Darius Taylor, Zurga

Soave sia il vento
from Così fan tutte

W. A. Mozart
Text: Lorenzo da Ponte

Emily DeMerchant, Fiordiligi
M.J. Britton, Dorabella
Zhihao Chen, Don Alfonso

Sull'aria
from Le nozze di Figaro

W. A. Mozart
Text: Lorenzo da Ponte

Xueying Ye, Susanna
Mandie McIlravy, Countess Almaviva

Bella figlia dell'amore
from Rigoletto

Giuseppe Verdi
Text: Francesco Maria Piave

Shannon Jongema, Gilda
Jacquelyn Tawil, Maddalena
Josh Martin, Il duca
Darius Taylor, Rigoletto

PROGRAM

Julie's Aria
from Omar

Rhiannon Giddens & Michael Abels
Text: Rhiannon Giddens

Cami Moses, Julie

Act 1 Finale
from Cendrillon

Jules Massenet
Text: Henri Cain

Erin Smith, La Fée
Haena Jeong, Cendrillon

Les Ésprits:

Cami Moses, Carrie Moscoe, Nicole Huff
Ana Cristina Soto, El Pike, Mandie McIlravy
Hannah Warta, Jacquelyn Tawil, M.J. Britton
Xinwei Wang, la White

-Intermission-

Overture
from Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss II

Maria
from West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein
Text: Stephen Sondheim

Josh Martin, Tony

Tonight Quintet
from West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein
Text: Stephen Sondheim

Ana Cristina Soto, Maria
la White, Anita
Josh Martin, Tony
Anthony Valle, Bernardo
Darius Taylor, Riff

PROGRAM

My mother says all girls grow sad
from The Sofa

Elizabeth Maconchy
Text: Ursula Vaughan Williams

Carrie Moscoe, Lucille
El Pike, Laura
Jacquelyn Tawil, Yolanda

Wie schön ist doch die Musik
from Die schweigsame Frau

Richard Strauss
Text: Stefan Zweig

Zhihao Chen, Morosus

Cherry Duet
from L'amico Fritz

Pietro Mascagni
Text: Nicola Dasuro

Shannon Kathleen Burr, Suzel
Philip Himebook, Fritz

Act 1 Scene 2
from Falstaff

Giuseppe Verdi
Text: Arrigo Boito

Mary Wilson**, Alice Ford
Nicole Huff, Nannetta Ford
Haena Jeong, Meg Page
Megan Esther Grey**, Dame Quickly
Josaphat Contreras**, Fenton
David Schnell**, Dr. Cajus
Richie Lisenby, Bardolfo
Darius Taylor, Ford
Matthew Burns**, Pistola

** School of Music Faculty Member

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1

Cecelia Erbe, concertmaster
Sebastian Gaviria Lopez
Lukas Santa Clara
Yinuo Yang
John Jesuyemi
Gabby Gregory
Sarah Enoch

Violin 2

Ana Sofia Ramirez, principal
Lina Lumumba
Jessica Flores
Hailey Smith
Khalid Lopez
Autumn Colley

Viola

Andrew McGuire, principal
Dario Oliveira Santos
Mario Henrique Rasoto Batista
Rex Brown
Raven Collins

Cello

Miriam Henderson, principal
Matthew Greiner
Asamoah Oppong
Ruby Thurman
Julian Severs
Ina O'Ryan
Elijah Yancey

Bass

Gesiye Okoya, principal
Ebony Gipson
Egypt Burton
Jonathan Hodges

Flute

Catie Balsamo
Samuel Jessuyemi
Nicole Rodriguez-Diaz

Oboe

Simon Dickerson
Jesus Salazar

English Horn

Isaac Ripple

Clarinet

Evgenii Mikheev
Andrew Hofmann
Shihao (Hugh) Zhu

Bassoon

Lora Yopp, principal
Caiden Ross

French Horn

Brittany Cooper-D'Orsay, principal
Kelsey Pegues
Rhys Roberts
Samara Salsbury

ORCHESTRA

Trumpet

Christian Chiasson, principal
Tyler Scott
Benjamin Vanderbijl

Percussion

Elijah Wynne
Chris Palmer
Allison Kiefer

Trombone

Cassidy Shiflett-Cockrell
Evan Green

Harp

Marian Shaffer

Bass Trombone

Caleb Elrod

Tuba

Ryan Winans

Piano

Yantong Chen

Timpani

Colton Renfrow

PRODUCTION

Stephen Karr

Conductor

Fabian Schneider

Orchestra Manager and
Supertitle Operator

Ben Smith

Producer

Amy Salerno Hale

Production Assistance

Mandie McIlravy

Stage Manager

Jeremy Fisher

Lighting Designer

Hannah Warta

Assistant Stage Manager

Shelbi Sellers and Corinthian Scott

Publicity and Program

Special Thanks

Rene Bustamante, Executive Vice President and
University CFO

Debra Burns, Dean
College of Communication and Fine Arts

Jacob Allen, Interim Director
Rudi E. Schiedt School of Music

Voice Faculty
Mary Wilson
Megan Grey
Josaphat Contreras
Matthew Burns

Daniel Brier, Director of Orchestras

Opera Memphis
Ned Canty, General Director
Jonathan King, Music Director