



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS.

Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

University of Memphis Opera
presents:

Song of the
NIGHTINGALE

Music by Lisa DeSpain
Text by Melisa Tien



45 minute runtime
Sung in English

April 10 & 11 | 7 PM
Harris Hall

3775 Central Ave, Memphis TN

Synopsis

Adapted from the Hans Christian Anderson story, *Song of the Nightingale* follows a devoted Collector who searches the world for the most beautiful objects and becomes obsessed with acquiring a Nightingale whose song is said to surpass all earthly treasures. When the Collector finally encounters the bird, its plain appearance contrasts sharply with the breathtaking power of its voice, challenging the Collector's belief that beauty is something to be owned rather than experienced. As the pursuit intensifies, the Collector confronts the truth that the Nightingale's living, freely given song cannot be captured or preserved like an object. Through this revelation, the story highlights the difference between possession and appreciation, showing that genuine beauty and emotional connection thrive only in freedom.

Cast



Nicole Huff
The Nightingale



Erin Smith
The Collector



Ana Cristina Soto
The Frog



Richie Lisenby
The Curator



Anthony Valle
The Cow



Carrie Moscoe
The Mechanical Nightingale

Creative Team



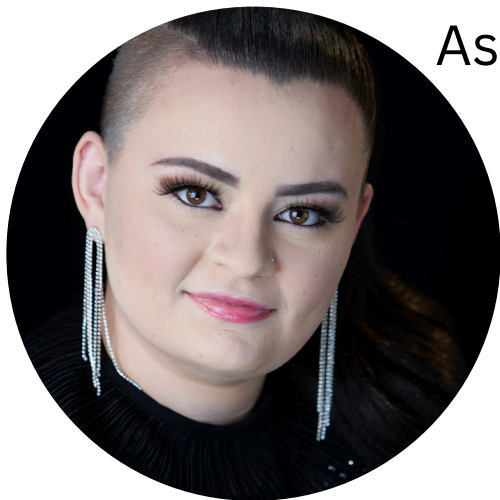
Ben Smith
Director



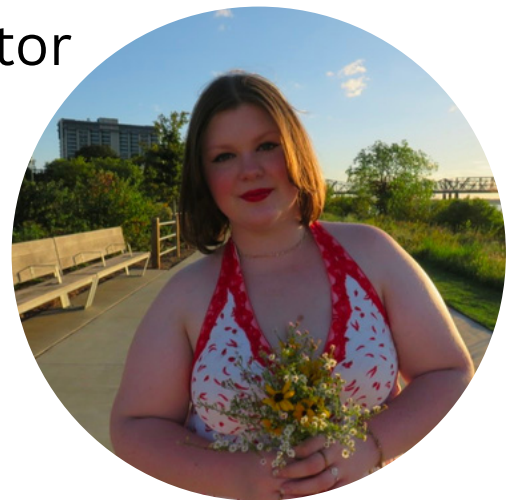
Stephen Karr
Conductor



Max Robinson
Assistant Director



Mandie McIlravy
Stage Manager



Hannah Warta
Assistant Stage Manager



Becky Donahue
Costume Designer



Jeremy Allen Fisher
Lighting Designer
Production TD



Patrice Nelms
Scenic Designer



Micki McCormick
Associate Lighting Designer



El Pike
Costume Assistant
Wardrobe



Chloe Smith
Run Crew



Performance Hospitality
M.J. Britton



Community Engagement
Shannon Jongema

Brandon Kitson
Master Electrician

Orchestra



Catherine Balsamo
Flute



Ina Torres O’Ryan
Cello



David Córdoba Hernández
Piano



Joey Burgos
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet



Dario Oliveira Santos
Violin

Additional Support

Nathan Greene
Venue Technical Director

Amy Salerno Hale
Production Support

Shelbi Sellers and Corinthian Scott
Publicity

Special Thanks

Debra Burns, Dean

College of Communication and Fine Arts

Jacob Allen, Interim Director

Rudi E. Schiedt School of Music

Our amazing voice faculty

Mary Wilson

Megan Grey

Josaphat Contreras

Matthew Burns

Department of Theatre and Dance

Jacob Allen, Chair

Opera Memphis

Ned Canty, General Director

Jonathan King, Music Director