

LYRICAL OPERA THEATER

Presents:

GEORGES BIZET'S

CARMEN

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

Opera in three acts set in Seville, Spain in 1775.

September 7, 11, 13 & 15, 2024

Mid-valley Performing Arts Center
2525 S. Taylorsville Blvd.
Taylorsville, UT

www.LyricalOperaTheater.com



Lyrical Opera Theater's 2025 Season



Die Fledermaus

February 8, 12, 14 & 16, 2025

Experience the enchanting world of *Die Fledermaus*, where Strauss' melodies dance with mischief, and laughter swirls in a sparkling cocktail of mistaken identities and operatic brilliance.

February 8, 12, 14 & 16, 2025

Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center



Giuseppe Verdi's FALSTAFF

Libretto adapted by Arrigo Boito
from Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*
September 13, 17, 19 & 21, 2025

A rollicking, frolicking, character-driven comedy full of slapstick humor and philosophical truth based on **Shakespeare's** *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

September 13, 17, 19 & 21, 2025

Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center

Dear Esteemed Patrons,

We are delighted to welcome you to our upcoming opera season, a journey into musical and theatrical splendor. This year's performances promise to leave an indelible mark on your hearts and minds.

We proudly present two of our season's highlights:

Carmen, composed by Georges Bizet in 1875, is set in 19th-century Spain. It tells the story of Carmen, a seductive Romani, and her tumultuous love affair with the soldier Don José. This opera masterfully blends Spanish melodies and vibrant rhythms, making it a timeless masterpiece celebrated for its emotive storytelling and musical brilliance.

Indulge in the intoxicating whirlwind of Johann Strauss II's ***Die Fledermaus***, where sparkling waltzes and mischievous schemes collide in a comedic operatic masterpiece. Join the masked revelry as laughter, romance, and music take center stage in this timeless tale of mistaken identities and champagne-fueled escapades.

Additionally, we continue our educational outreach with "*Little Red Riding Hood...a children's opera*," captivating young minds and fostering a lifelong love for music and storytelling.

As we embark on this season's voyage, we are deeply honored to have you as part of our cherished audience. Your presence and support drive our dedication to the arts, and we are excited to share these remarkable moments with you.

Thank you for being an integral part of our opera family. We eagerly await the privilege of entertaining and enlightening you with these exquisite productions.

Yours in harmony,

Lynnette Owens/Executive Director

LYRICAL OPERA THEATER

CAST:

Carmen, Romani-girl: Sandra Aldaz

Don José, corporal: Daniel Perez

Escamillo, Toreador: Marc Abbott (Sept. 7 & 11)

Christopher Stockslager (Sept. 13 & 15)

Micaëla, village girl: Chelsea Alexandra (Sept. 7 & 11)

Madelynn Hunter (Sept. 13 & 15)

Zuniga, lieutenant: Hayden Höglund (Sept. 7 & 11)

Michael Murray (Sept. 13 & 15)

Moralès, corporal: Matthew Castleton (Sept. 7 & 11)

Caden Webb (Sept. 13 & 15)

Frasquita, Romani-girl: Jacquelyn Abbott (Sept. 7 & 11)

Deborah Naylor Johnson (Sept. 13 & 15)

Mercédès, Romani-girl: Mandi Barrus (Sept. 7 & 11)

Brittney Stradling (Sept. 13 & 15)

Lillas Pastia, inn-keeper: Mike Rasmussen

El Remendado, smuggler: Alex Harrelson (Sept. 7 & 11)

Jesse Toftum (Sept. 13 & 15)

El Dancaïre, smuggler: Caden Webb (Sept. 7 & 11)

Matthew Castleton (Sept. 13 & 15)

Chorus: Ariana Abadia, Amy Banta,

Rebekah Helm, Emily Jameson,

Brita Marchant, Sarah Seamons,

Deborah Siddoway, Ella Parish,

Alicia Fairbanks, Emily Mijarez,

Rod Hansen, Mike Rasmussen,

Jesse Toftum, Danny McDonnall,

Smera Nair, Mirium Penrod

Nila Nachimuthu, Alivia Debenham

Stage Manager: Matilda Black

Assistant Stage Manager: Lee Wailes

Stagehands: Kaden Larsen, Brody Peck

Lighting: Jack Dingman, Tanner Peck

Wigs & Makeup: Daniel Perez

Sound, Scenery, Staging: Lyrical Opera Products, Inc.

PROGRAM ORDER: **Act 1** then a 15 minute intermission,

Act 2 then a 15 minute intermission,

Acts 3 & 4 End.

Synopsis

Setting: Seville, Spain around 1820.

Act 1: Soldiers stand guard outside a cigarette factory. Micaëla asks about Don José and leaves when she learns he'll arrive soon. José's platoon arrives, and he learns Micaëla loves him. Factory workers take a break, and Carmen, a provocative Romani, sings the famous aria "Habanera," throwing a flower at José. Micaëla returns with a letter from José's mother urging him to marry her. A fight in the factory leads to Carmen's arrest, but she convinces José to let her escape, resulting in his imprisonment.

Act 2: A month later in a tavern, Carmen and friends are entertained by the bullfighter Escamillo. He offers love to Carmen, but she is set on José, recently released from prison. Smugglers plot their next move, asking Carmen to recruit José. José arrives and professes his love, showing her the flower she threw at him. Carmen demands he prove his love by deserting the army. They are interrupted by José's commander, Zuniga, leading to a fight that forces José to join the smugglers.

Act 3: In the mountains, José is with the smugglers but longs for home. Carmen mocks him and suggests he leave. Fortune cards predict Carmen's death. Micaëla arrives to save José, while Escamillo comes seeking Carmen. José and Escamillo fight but are stopped by the smugglers. Micaëla tells José his mother is dying, and he leaves, warning Carmen they'll meet again.

Act 4: The next month, in front of the bullfight arena, Escamillo, now Carmen's lover, is cheered by spectators. He enters the arena, but Carmen stays behind. José appears, begging Carmen to start anew with him. She refuses and throws away his ring. As cheers erupt from the arena for Escamillo, José, in a fit of rage, stabs Carmen to death.

Sinopsis en Español

Ambientación: Sevilla, España, alrededor de 1820

Acto 1: Los soldados montan guardia fuera de una fábrica de cigarrillos. Micaëla pregunta por Don José y se va cuando se entera de que llegará pronto. Llega el pelotón de José, y él se entera de que Micaëla lo ama. Las trabajadoras de la fábrica toman un descanso, y Carmen, una provocativa Romani, canta la famosa aria "Habanera," lanzando una flor a José. Micaëla regresa con una carta de la madre de José instándole a casarse con ella. Una pelea en la fábrica lleva al arresto de Carmen, pero ella convence a José de dejarla escapar, resultando en su encarcelamiento.

Acto 2: Un mes después en una taberna, Carmen y sus amigas son entretenidas por el torero Escamillo. Él le ofrece amor a Carmen, pero ella está interesada en José, que ha sido liberado de prisión recientemente. Los contrabandistas planean su próximo movimiento y le piden a Carmen que reclute a José. José llega y le declara su amor, mostrándole la flor que ella le lanzó. Carmen le exige que demuestre su amor desertando del ejército. Son interrumpidos por el comandante de José, Zuniga, lo que lleva a una pelea que obliga a José a unirse a los contrabandistas.

Acto 3: En las montañas, José está con los contrabandistas, pero anhela su hogar. Carmen se burla de él y sugiere que se vaya. Las cartas del tarot predicen la muerte de Carmen. Micaëla llega para salvar a José, mientras que Escamillo viene en busca de Carmen. José y Escamillo luchan, pero son detenidos por los contrabandistas. Micaëla le dice a José que su madre está muriendo, y él se va, advirtiéndole a Carmen que se volverán a encontrar.

Acto 4: Al mes siguiente, frente a la arena de toros, Escamillo, ahora amante de Carmen, es aclamado por los espectadores. Él entra a la arena, pero Carmen se queda atrás. José aparece, rogándole a Carmen que comience de nuevo con él. Ella se niega y tira su anillo. Mientras los vítores del público resuenan en la arena para Escamillo, José, en un ataque de rabia, apuñala a Carmen hasta matarla.

Cast biographies:

Carmen: Aubrey Adams McMillan



Aubrey, a versatile singer, collaborates with composers and performs across various genres. She has sung with the prestigious Utah Symphony, Intermezzo, Utah Opera, NOVA Chamber Music, Southwest Symphony, and Cathedral of the Madeleine concert series. Aubrey received the Marian Anderson scholarship at Westminster Choir College and was a two-time district finalist in the Metropolitan Opera competition. As a new Doctorate student at the University of Utah, she researches phonation and vagal tone. Aubrey also teaches at Westminster College and served as President of the Northern Utah chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Carmen: Sandra Aldas



Sandra Aldaz, a Mexican soprano, began her formal singing studies at the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua at age 18, earning a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. She made her international debut as a soloist at the Hawaii International Music Festival in August 2017 and was a finalist in the vocal competition "Olivia Gorra" in Mexico City the following month. In 2018, she performed in Città della Pieve, Italy, during the premiere of the opera *Sacco e Vanzetti*, singing the main roles of Luigia Vanzetti and Comrad Blackwell as a guest artist with the International Opera Theater of Philadelphia.

At 28, Ms. Aldaz has successfully portrayed operatic roles such as Angelina in *La Cenerentola* and Nicklausse in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*.

This production is funded in part by the ARP Act and the Utah State Legislature through Utah Arts & Museums.



Funded by
Utah Legislature



Utah Division of
Arts & Museums

Don José/Wigs & Makeup: Daniel Perez



Daniel Perez, originally from Mexico, is a tenor currently residing in Provo, Utah. He is currently a student of Isaac Hurtado at Utah Valley University. Perez is no stranger to Lyrical Opera Theater's stage as he has performed in multiple productions including: Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Mario Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*. He was recently a young artist at the 2023 Mediterranean Opera Festival in Sicily singing the role of Alfredo in *La Traviata* and *Normanno/Arturo* in Lucia di Lammermoor. His other more recent roles are: Hoffmann in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Algernon Moncrieff in the North American premiere of *L'importanza di essere Onesto*, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus*, and Camille de Rossillon in *The Merry Widow*. He has also sung as a chorister in multiple productions.

Escamillo: Marc Abbott



MARC ABBOTT, baritone, studied under tenor Harry Dunstan of the American Center for Puccini Studies, singing Pictordu (Cendrillon, Viardot), Guglielmo Wulf (Le Villi), Michele (Il tabarro), Scarpia (Tosca), Herr Colas (Bastien und Bastienne), and scenes as Count Almaviva (Le nozze di Figaro). More recently, he has sung the Notary/Doctor (Gianni Schicchi), performed in the ensemble in Utah Festival Opera's *Carmen*, and Schaunard (La bohème) with Lyrical Opera Theater. He currently teaches voice at Utah State University and in his private studio in Cache Valley with his wife, Jacquelyn, who is performing Frasquita in this production.

Thank you for making this show possible!

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**

 [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov)

Escamillio: Christopher Stockslager



Chris is a Utah native who graduated with his BA in Classical Voice from Westminster College in 2015. In 2017, he earned his MM also in Classical Voice from The Manhattan School of Music under Metropolitan Opera legend James Morris. Upcoming roles include the Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, also with Lyrical Opera Theater. Previous role highlights include Don Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Lord Savage in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Peter in *Company*, and various operatic, musical theatre, and jazz scenes and concerts in Utah & New York City.

Micaëla: Chelsea Alexandra



Chelsea Alexandra is thrilled to be returning to the Lyrical Opera Theater as Micaëla! Chelsea debuted here as Mimì from Puccini's *La Bohème*, which she revisited the role a second time from her previous performance in Novafeltria Italy. Since then she has portrayed the leading role of Cendrillon as Massenet's fairytale icon at UVAA and as The Mother at the Grand Theater, in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A graduate of UofU, Chelsea performed the role of Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* at Kingsbury Hall,

and scenes from *Così fan Tutte* and *La Traviata*, as Fiordiligi and Violetta. Chelsea thanks Kirstin Chávez, whose guidance has been pivotal to her success.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Micaëla: Madelynn Hunter



Madelynn Hunter, American Soprano, hailing from Derby, Kansas, is a standout talent in the opera world. A graduate of Brigham Young University in Voice Performance where she performed roles in *Zauberflöte* and *Suor Angelica*. She has graced stages in the production *Pagliacci* as Nedda and *Gianni Schicchi* as La Ciesca with Lyrical Opera Theater. Madelynn's accolades include 3rd prize in the Royal Maas International Competition and 4th prize in the London Classical Music Competition. She's also impressed in competitions like Music International Grand Prix and Nouvelles Étoiles. Madelynn sharpened her skills at the Dolora Zajick Institute for Young Dramatic Voice and excelled in programs like Utah Vocal Arts Academy.

Zuniga: Hayden Höglund



Hailed as having a "rich baritone voice" and being described as a "truly... talented musician and performer," **Hayden Höglund** is pleased to return to LOT as Zuniga in *Carmen*. His favorite stage credits include Mr. Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Silvio in *Pagliacci*, Betto in *Gianni Schicchi*, Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Seneca in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Höglund recently completed a season at Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre where he performed in the ensembles of *Lohengrin*, *Aida*, and *Our Town*; as well as in *Oliver!* as Mr. Sowerberry, gaining him praise for "[springing] the show forward with [his] physical comedy and lively singing."

Thank you for making this show possible!



Zuniga: Michael Murray



As a country kid from a farm in rural Idaho, **Michael Murray** gained an appreciation and love for music through religious practice. That fascination grew with him as he participated in high-school, college, and community choirs. Having had music lessons on and off all his life, using his voice to artistically express himself has become second nature. After receiving a degree in Business from Brigham young University, he attended the Violin Making School of America and now works as a Luthier at CMC Strings in Millcreek Utah. He's excited to dip his toes into theatre and being on stage with Lyrical Opera.

El Dancaïre/Morales: Matthew Castleton



Matthew Thomas Castleton (Salt Lake City, Utah) is delighted to appear with Lyrical Opera Theater. While Mr. Castleton has a large swath of operatic and musical theatre experience, recent credits include Tonio in *Pagliacci* and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Lyrical Opera Theater), *La Bohème* (Utah Opera) and Chabrier's *L'Étoile* (Sin City Opera). Mr. Castleton also was a young artist at the 2009 La Musica Lirica Opera Young Artist Program (Novafeltria, Italy). He holds both Bachelors (2010) and Masters (2014) Degrees in

Music-Vocal Performance from the U of U. When he is not performing, Matthew works at The Home Depot.

Thank you for making this show possible!



El Dancaïre/Morales: Caden Webb



Originally from Lodi, California, **Caden Webb**, Baritone, is a Senior in the Vocal Performance program at Utah State University. He has played Vladimir Popov in *Anastasia* and Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* at Utah State University. He has also performed as a principle role all over the country at Summer Programs such as Harrower Summer Opera Workshop in Atlanta, Georgia and Chicago Summer Opera in Chicago, Illinois. Caden has also performed as don giovanni in *Don Giovanni* with Prague Summer Nights in the Czech Republic. In his spare time, Caden loves to build cosplay armor and props, as well as spending time with his colleagues.

Frasquita: Jacquelyn Abbott



DR. JACQUELYN ABBOTT, soprano, has loved singing from a very young age and began her vocal training not far from here in Kaysville, Utah. After obtaining an undergraduate degree in Communication Disorders from BYU, she felt singing was her true calling and went on to receive a Doctor of Music in Voice Performance with distinction from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Jacquelyn enjoys teaching at Utah State and maintains a private studio

with her husband, Marc Abbott. She loves to perform and direct as often as she can and recently appeared as Berta in *The Barber of Seville* and Phoebe in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Frasquita: Deborah Naylor Johnson



Deborah is excited to make her debut in a lead role with Lyrical Opera Theater. She has recently performed in *Hunchback of Notre Dame* as Florika, various productions in the Utah Opera Chorus and Lyrical Opera Theater Chorus, Dorothee in UVAA's *Cendrillon*, and Lady Beconsfield in Draper Historic Theatre's *Jekyll and Hyde*. She looks forward to playing the role of Adele in *Die Fledermaus* next February with Lyrical Opera. Outside of evening performances she is a piano and voice teacher as well as a piano tuner. She enjoys mountain biking, four-wheeling, camping, hiking, and crocheting. She'd like to give a big thanks to her husband for all his support in her vocal health and performances.

Mercédès: Mandi Barrus



Lyric mezzo **Mandi Barrus** is a musician and opera producer. With her "impressive technique and clear tone", her "warm and cozy mezzo-soprano voice" is "a breath of fresh air". Mandi's 23-24 season comprised producing and singing 4 roles with Opera Contempo, premiering Artemis in Rudman's *Protectress* and Nature in Buck's *Le Roman de Silence*. She sang on Utopia Music's *Menagerie* and NEXT Ensemble's *Women in Music*. Upcoming, Mandi will sing Mércèdes

with Opera San Luis Obispo, then The Witch in *Hansel and Gretel* with Rimrock Opera. Mandi holds a Master of Music degree from the UofU and sings at St. Paul's Episcopal.

Thank you for making this show possible!

sam's club 

Mercédès: Brittney Stradling



Brittney is excited to be joining the Lyrical Opera Theater for the first time! She is currently a student at UVU, studying Music Education with a minor in Spanish. Though this is her debut on the LOT stage, she has enjoyed participating in UVU's productions of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* as Nicklausse, and in the choruses of *La Bohème* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*. She most recently performed in a production of Rob Gardner's *Lamb of God* in Spanish (Cordero de Dios) as Mother Mary; and previously as Mary Magdalene, a percussionist, and the director (not at the same time)! Put her in a choir, and her heart will be content.

Lilas Pastia/Chorus: Michael Rasmussen



Michael can often be found singing, either at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark in Salt Lake City, with the Utah Sacred Harp Singers, or with friends singing Renaissance polyphony for fun. In 2024, he sang in the chorus for Opera Contempo's premier of *Le Roman de Silence*. In 2023, he joined singers from St. Mary's Catholic Church (Park City) to sing Josquin's *Missa Pange Lingua* and joined singers from St. Paul's (Park City) and elsewhere to sing Faure's *Requiem*. When he is not singing, he can be found working for The University of Utah or wandering the foothills and cemeteries of Salt Lake City.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

El Remendado: Alex Harrelson



Alex Harrelson is a 24-year-old tenor pursuing a DMA at the U of Utah. With Lyrical Opera Theater, he has performed Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi*, Parpignol in *La Bohème*, and Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. At the U, he has performed as Marley, Fred, and Cratchitt in *A Christmas Carol*, King Kaspar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, the Defendant in *Trial by Jury*, and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*. Other notable roles include Gastone in *La Traviata* and Lindoro in *L'Italiana in Algeri*. Most recently, he performed in *A.L.I.C.E.* by Scurria and Corriher, and *Le Roman de Silence*, by Buck, both new operas. summer

El Remendado: Jesse Toftum



Jesse Toftum is a composer, vocalist, and plays several musical instruments. He started studying music theory on his own at 16. By midway through high school his band director was deferring to Jesse to answer other students. He studied music composition for four years at Snow College, where he learned his love for opera. Jesse is now a Junior at the University of Utah studying Computer Science. This is Jesse's fourth consecutive season with Lyrical Opera. He sang the Duke in their production of *Rigoletto* and El Remendado in *Carmen*. He is happy to be working again under the direction of Lynnette Owens and with this stellar cast.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Brita Marchant



My name is **Brita Marchant**, and I love to sing! I am currently a Vocal Performance major at USU, and I have a long way to go! *Carmen* will be my first ever musical/opera production. My other hobbies include painting, hiking, reading, sewing, and spending time with friends and family.

Villager: Ariana Abadia



Ariana Abadía, ecuadorian soprano, obtained her diploma in classical voice at the National Conservatory of Music, later she received her bachelor's degree in music pedagogy at the Catholic University of Quito. In April 2024 she obtained her Master's degree in voice performance at Brigham Young University. Ariana has performed as Romilda in Handel's *Serse*, Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*; Marta in Rob Gardner's *Lamb of God*; Bastiene in *Bastien und Bastienne*; Ilse in *Spring Awakening*; the First Lady in *The Magic Flute*; Diana in the national premiere of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*. She's been a soloist in Faure's *Requiem* and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

Thank you for making this show possible!

R.HAROLD BURTON
FOUNDATION

Villager: Sarah Seamons



Sarah Seamons grew up in Ogden Utah and was part of High School and Community Theater. Sarah has also sung with the Mormon Youth Chorus and is currently taking voice lessons with Lynnette Owens. She sang Giovanna in *Rigoletto* and was a soloist with Lyrical Opera Theater's *Masquerade Party 2019*, on Salt Lake City's *Festa Italiana* and the *Summer Arts Festival* in Ogden. She has sung in the chorus of *La Traviata* and *Falstaff*.

Villager: Amy Banta



Amy Banta didn't know she could sing until she was almost 30. Now she's making up for lost time. In Washington, D.C. she performed at The National Cathedral and with The Georgetown Gilbert and Sullivan Society, singing for prominent members of all branches of government. Locally, she's performed at The Empress Theatre and with The Motley Wandering Minstrels. She also sings and plays Celtic Harp (and occasionally the banjo) with her folk trio "The High Desert Harpies."

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Deborah Siddoway



Deborah Siddoway, soprano, has worked collaboratively and individually on a variety of concerts. As a classically trained musician, her primary performance focus is Opera and Broadway. Her performances include Kate Pinkerton and Mama in Lyrical Opera Theater's *Madama Butterfly*, chorus in *Carmen*, *Tosca*, and *Falstaff* and Gretchen in Beth Bruner's, *The Grand Duke*. Her concert soloist performances include singing Puccini's "O mio babbino caro" and Rossini's "Duetto buffo di due gatti" with Lyrical Opera Theater soloing in the Matsumoto, Japan/Salt Lake City sister city Gala and Lyrical Opera Theater *Heart Song* concert, and annual Masquerade party. She has been featured in the Italian festival "Ferragosto."

Villager: Miriam Penrod



Miriam Penrod, soprano from Orlando, Florida, recently graduated from Utah State University with a BA in Chinese and minors in both Linguistics and Asian Studies. While at USU, she also pursued her passion for music through private voice instruction and choir performances. This led to numerous solo opportunities from soulful gospel riffs to soloing at USU's 2024 graduation ceremony. Miriam placed 2nd in both contemporary and classical categories of this year's NATS (Northern Utah Chapter) vocal competition. She intends to find a career speaking Chinese daily and plans to seek out every opportunity to sing her heart out for those around her!

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Ella Parish



Ella Parish is starting her senior year at Mountain Crest High School in Hyrum, UT where she not only performs in the school's theater productions, but she is also the costumer for the theater program. Ella most recently performed in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, *Once on This Island*, *Curtains*, *Antigone Now*, and will be performing in *Matilda* in November. Ella loves singing, acting, dancing and creating. She is a student of Jacquelyn Abbott.

Villager: Alicia Fairbanks



Alicia Fairbanks began studying voice at Mesa Community College. She completed an undergraduate degree in vocal performance at Brigham Young University. During that time she had the opportunity to teach BYU's Slavic Choir. Alicia earned a masters degree in voice at the University of Utah. Past roles include Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Pitti Sing in the *Mikado*, Amahl in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and Athamas in *Semele*. Alicia loves working with her voice students and watching them progress. She uses her spare time for painting, sculpting and sewing.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Emily Mijarez



Emily Anderson Mijarez is excited to be making her fifth appearance at Lyrical Opera Theater. She recently played the role of Berta in Lyrical Opera's performance of *The Barber of Seville* and played the role of Flora in Lyrical Opera's performance of *La Traviata* in 2019. However, she has spent most of her musical career on the musical theater stage. She has performed at The Hale Theater Orem in *South Pacific* and *Guys and Dolls*, as well as in many local community productions. Her favorite roles to date are Lucy in *Jekyll and Hyde* and Ms. Hannigan in *Annie*. Emily is extremely grateful to her family, friends and husband who encourage her daily to pursue her dreams. She is also very grateful to Lynnette Owens who continues to push her outside her comfort zone.

Villager: Rod Hansen



This is Rod Hansen's fourth production with Lyrical Opera Theater. He played Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville*, Benoit in *La Boheme* and sang in the chorus of *Pagliacci*. Prior to that, he appeared in musicals, such as *Spamalot* and *Fiddler on the Roof* and at Evermore Park. He is often found at Renaissance Faires performing as a medieval style bard, singing, playing guitar, and juggling.

This production is funded in part by the ARP Act and the Utah State Legislature through Utah Arts & Museums.



Funded by
Utah Legislature



Utah Division of
Arts & Museums

Villager: Smera Nair



Smera Nair takes vocal and piano lessons privately with Lynnette Owens. She is a talented singer and pianist and enjoys performing songs in English, Latin and Italian. She recently played the role of Giulia in *Gianni Schicchi* and the shepherdess in *Tosca* and has performed at the Festa Italiana in Salt Lake City for twice. In her free time, Smera loves to go swimming, biking and spend time with her family and her pet dog, Buddy.

Villager: Nila Nachimuthu



Hi, my name is **Nila**, and I'm a 10-year-old who plays piano and sings in English, French and Italian. I'm on the swim team, chess club, and I do jiu-jitsu, math class, summer camp, ice skating, and yoga. I love animals more than anything in the world. I have already sung in one opera, *La Bohème* and am about to perform in my second opera, *Carmen*.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Alivia Debenham



Hi, my name is **Alivia**, and I am 12 years old. I play piano and I love to sing. For the past 3 years, I have been a member of the American Heritage Youth Choir. I have performed in the Patriotic Program at my school along with other devotionals. I enjoy swimming, riding horses, and camping. This will be my first time performing in an opera.

Villager: Emily Tuutau



Emily Tuutau was born into a musical family and loves to sing and perform on stage. She is a fast learner and follows stage directions well. She has performed in five of Lyrical Opera Theater's productions...the role of Trouble in *Madama Butterfly*, an Acolyte in *Tosca*, Giulia in *Gianni Schicchi*, a Villager in *Pagliacci* and a Villager in *La Boheme*.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Rebekah Helm



A Utah native, **Rebekah** loves singing onstage. Rebekah has a MM degree from BYU and a BM degree from Snow College. Rebekah teaches private lessons at Daybreak School of Music. Her favorite roles have been Luisa (*The Fantasticks*), Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*), Sarah Brown (*Guys and Dolls*), Casilda (*The Gondoliers*), Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), and Fatmé (*Zémire et Azor*). She sang with the Utah Opera Chorus in *Die Zauberflöte*, and was principal understudy and background vocalist in Kurt Bestor's *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. When she's not teaching or performing, Rebekah enjoys spending time with her husband Devan.

Villager: Emily Jameson



This is **Emily's** third experience with Lyrical Opera Theater. She is very excited to be a part of the *Carmen* Opera Chorus. She performed in *La Bohème* and *Pagliacci*. Emily has been performing in musical theatre productions for the past four years. Favorite roles include: Fastrada in *Pippin* and Miss Andrew in *Mary Poppins*. Other favorite shows include *Into the Woods* and *Addams Family*.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Villager: Danny McDonnall



Danny McDonnall is thrilled to return to the Lyrical Opera Theater after his debut role as Dr. Caius (*Falstaff*) and singing at *Festa Italiana*. He has recently completed a Performance Certificate at the University of Denver where he performed roles/scenes including The Lamplighter (*The Little Prince*), Oronte (*Alcina*), Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*), Paul (*Die Tote Stat*), Jean Valjean (*Les Miserable*), and Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*). While in Colorado, Danny also sings with the chorus for Opera Colorado and as a soloist with Central City Opera touring productions. When he is not singing, he is a neuroscientist, biotech entrepreneur, and a biomedical engineering professor.

Stage Manager: Matilda Black



Matilda is a stagehand hoping to work in theater lighting design. She has varied experience at The Grand Theater in *Sweeney Todd*, SLAC in *You Will get Sick*, and at Pioneer Theater in *Hello Dolly*. Her hobbies include board games, playing the piano, and creating new worlds. Theater has brought her a great passion for telling stories.

Thank you for making this show possible!



Assistant Stage Mangager: Lee Wailes



After enjoying his last experience, **Lee Wailes** is grateful to be invited back to Lyrical Opera and their brilliant production of Carmen. Used to productions where is the only stage manager, and the only stage hand, he is grateful for another experience with a talented crew he can trust at his side; he likes to think the feeling is mutual. "I'd like to once again thank my friend Matilda for reaching out to me about Lyrical Opera and its opportunities. A thank you as well to Aaron and Kayden for their constant professionalism and hard work. If anyone in the audience happens to be from OBT, welcome, hope to work with you soon."

Stagehand: Kaden Larsen



Kaden Larsen, a seasoned stagehand on his third opera, is celebrated for his unwavering work ethic and adaptability. A reliable and versatile team member, he effortlessly takes on any task to ensure the opera's success. Grateful for partner Damien and their extended family, Kaden finds comfort in the company of two senior cats and a growing collection of plants. Amidst the controlled chaos of opera production, he values each team member's unique contributions. Known for his handiness, cat-whispering skills, and familial ties to the opera, working alongside Damien's father and sister, Kaden brings a familial touch to the production. He has eclectic musical tastes and eagerly anticipates each opera, always ready to contribute with enthusiasm and a helping hand.

Thank you for making this show possible!

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**



arts.gov

Stagehand: Brody Peck



Brody Peck has a solid theater background, a proficiency in construction, and a passion for the performing arts. Known for flexibility and composure under pressure, he excels in collaboration with directors, designers, and crew members. With strong problem-solving skills and a keen eye for detail, Brody ensures safe and smooth productions.

Dancer: Kora Doman



I have 15 years of dance experience and will be going to UVU this fall, majoring in ballet with a minor in entrepreneurship. I got my ballet training at Wasatch Arts center along with experience on their company using modern, and jazz style techniques in addition to my ballet skills. Before becoming serious in dance I took 4 years of drama classes and was in a school production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. I have found that my roots in theater have been a great tool for me in the dance world and in my performances. Roles I've performed for

Oquirrh Mountain Ballet's Nutcracker include, The Mouse King, Spanish Princess, Snow corps, Drosselmeyer's Maid, Chinese, and Russian variations. Roles from other shows include Peter Pan, Marry from the nativity, and Sneezzy from *Snow White*.

Thank you for making this show possible!

R.HAROLD BURTON
FOUNDATION

Dancer: Victoria White



Victoria's journey in dance began at the age of 4 and has been an enduring passion ever since! Her days are filled with dance, commencing early and ending late, and she loves every moment of it! For the past 8 years, she's found immense fulfillment teaching Ballet, Tap, and Jazz at Wasatch Arts Center. Victoria has an AS in Dance from Utah Valley University, is currently pursuing a BA in Dance at Brigham Young University, and currently is a member of BYU's Theater Ballet Studio Company. She is grateful for every opportunity to be on stage and hopes you enjoy the show!"

Dancer: Olivia White



My name is **Olivia White**, I have been dancing for 16 years training in Ballet, Jazz, Modern, and Tap. I am currently in the ballet program at Utah Valley University. I was on UVU's ballet company, Repertory Ballet Ensemble, for the 2023-2024 season. This season I am pursuing the modern company at UVU, Synergy. I have a passion for dance and look for every opportunity to perform!

Thank you for making this show possible!



Thank you to all of our donors for making this show possible!

Abel, Holly Seely	Lundie, Felicia
Anderson, Andy	Lundie, Kimberly
Anderson, Karen	Lundskop, River & family
Anderson, Holly Harris	Meneghin, Luiz
Anderson, Linda	Newman, John
Arbizu, Christopher	Nichols, Cynthia
Arbizu, Marcus	Owens, Lynnette
Arbizu, Ray	Owens, Max & Ruth
Bedore, Bob	Owens, Steven
Benson, Jessica	Parker, Steve
Borgenicht, Louis	Pedersen, Aleena
Burke, Susan	Persinger, Regena & family
Calder, Judy	Powers, Alyssa
Castleton, Matthew	Powers, Candace
Clavell, Erin	Pugmire, Jessie
Clayton, Manuel	Richardson, Kelly
Clements, Allison & family	Robinette, Sue
Crabb, Jennifer	Rudolph, Marilyn & Walter
Dalbow, Kahli	Schaub, Jacob
Din, Jeffrey	Schaub, Lori
Elliot, Cherise	Schindler, Rolph, Andi & family
Ferrara, Teresa	Seamons, Sarah
Forchic, Lori, Dennis & family	Siddoway, Deborah
Freeman, Cynthia	Smith, Carole
Fulton, Teresa	Sohm, Sue
Gamonal, Ernie	Solomon, Andi
Gordo, Flaco	Sorenson, Mary
Hamilton, Jane	Southwick, Jeannie
Hancock, Elijah	Stuart, Peggy
Hans, Dell Loy	Suiter, Celeste
Heinrich, Marilyn & Lee	Toftum, Jesse
Idehen, Sarra	Tollestrup, Sammie
Jaeger, Heidi	Trapp, Gregory
Jefferies, Beatrix	Trickett, Keith
Jensen, Joshua	Vance, Lisa
Jensen, Sonja	Wallingford, Doug
Johnston, Copeland	Watts, Gregory
Lavea, Teuila Gerber	Wheatly, Stan
Lui, Shuk Han	Young Christy
	Zainer, Pamela

**Thank you to our partners
for helping to make our shows possible.**



www.wjarts.org

Salt Lake Ballet Cooperative



<https://www.facebook.com/saltlakeballetcooperative/>