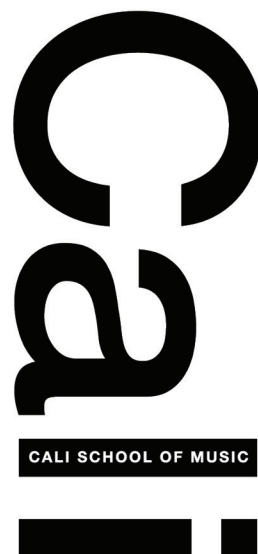


**FALL 2022  
MSU OPERA PRESENTS**

# ***THE BEAUTIFUL BRIDEGROOM***

**Libretto & Music by: Dan Shore**



**MSU Chamber Opera Workshop of the John J. Cali School of Music**

Karen Driscoll, *director*

Beth Robin & Ginny Stephens, *accompanists*

**ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022**

6:00 PM and 8:00 PM



**MONTCLAIR STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**John J. Cali School of Music**

# THE BEAUTIFUL BRIDEGROOM

## CASTS

### ROLE

Pernille  
Madame Terentia  
Laurentia  
Leonora  
Madame Kirsten  
Frands von Frauenliebe  
*Accompanist*

### 6:00 PM

Abby Brodnick  
Heesoo Shin  
Maya Henry  
Thalia Suleymanov  
Natasha Rhoads-McFarland  
Yejin Lee  
*Beth Robin*

### 8:00 PM

Sonia Fortezza  
Yejin Lee  
Emma Mason  
Camryn Dewar  
Jacklynn Wick  
So Yeon Kim  
*Ginny Stephens*

## SYNOPSIS

**Scene 1** The widow, Madame Terentia has just returned from a recent visit to Copenhagen where she enjoyed the delightful company of several handsome young cavaliers. Once again feeling the blush of youth in her cheeks and the vigor of captivating conversation, she reveals to her maid Pernille that she herself would like to marry a second time, but that the man must be dashing and young like the officers she just met. She strictly warns Pernille that this secret must be kept from her daughters Laurentia and Leonora or the maid will be dismissed from her services.

**Scene 2** Leonora is attempting to learn the proper steps of the minuet under the tutelage of her older sister Laurentia as she is looking forward to dancing it at Laurentia's wedding. In the ensuing conversation, it becomes clear that the two vastly disagree on their view of men. As they discuss their differences, they notice Pernille sneaking about. Pernille has decided to go to the local matchmaker Madame Kirsten and warn her of Madame Terentia's crazy notion to wed a young man. Pernille buckles under the sisters' interrogation. When she reveals she is going to the matchmaker, both girls contemplate what that might mean for their future.

**Scene 3** Madame Kirsten receives Pernille's message to save Terentia's reputation and ponders what she might do with this unusual assignment. When Terentia arrives, Madame Kirsten encourages her to accept her adoring neighbor old Jeronimus as a husband, but Terentia stresses that she will only consider a much younger suitor to be her beautiful bridegroom. Hatching an "alternate" plan, Kirsten suggests the strong and *quite young* Captain Frands von Frauenliebe.

**Scene 4** Terentia, Pernille, Laurentia, and Leonora learn that a man has been sent to their house by Madame Kirsten. They frantically prepare for the mysterious visitor. Kirsten enters and presents the handsome young captain. His arrival captivates all the ladies. The news of marriage between Frauenliebe and Terentia quickly unfolds and the daughters and Pernille are left in horror.

**Scene 5** While Terentia triumphs over her imminent marriage, Pernille berates her mistress for wrecking her daughter's life in such a cold and selfish manner. Just then, Kirsten enters in complete dismay: a very serious matter has happened to the young captain! Frauenliebe enters and deplores his fate. The reveal totally humbles Terentia. The widow agrees to marry Jeronimus. However, Laurentia is still rather enchanted by the captain despite his new circumstances. Perhaps it remains for Pernille to teach Leonora how to minuet after all...

## BIOGRAPHIES

### CREATIVE TEAM

**Dan Shore** (Composer) His most recent opera, *Freedom Ride*, premiered in 2020 to critical acclaim at Chicago Opera Theater, directed by Tazewell Thompson and conducted by Lidiya Yankovskaya. His many works for the stage as composer and playwright include *The Beautiful Bridegroom*, *An Embarrassing Position*, *Works of Mercy*, *Travel*, *The Chorus Girl*, and *Anne Hutchinson*. Recent concert works include commissions from Calliope's Call, Musaica, Duo Cantabrigia, the Rivers School Conservatory, the Freisinger Chamber Orchestra, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Last year the Washington Post included him on their list of "21 for '21: Composers and performers who sound like tomorrow." An alumnus of the BMI-Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, a Fulbright scholar, and a two-time winner of the National Opera Association's Chamber Opera Competition, Dan holds a B.M. and M.M. from the New England Conservatory and a Ph.D. from the City University of New York. Former faculty at Xavier University of Louisiana, Baruch College, and Emerson College, Dan is an Assistant Professor at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He is a member of ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild.

**Karen Driscoll** (Director) is John J. Cali School of Music's Head of Artistic Operations/Opera as well as Adjunct Professor of Voice. As a director, Karen has lead multiple scenes programs for MSU's Opera Workshop classes, as well as role preparation productions including *Sweeney Todd* and *La Bohème*. She has also enjoyed collaborating on many occasions as not only a soprano soloist with MSU Singers and Chorale choirs but also as director of *Considering Matthew Shepard*. As a soprano, Ms. Driscoll has sung leading roles with Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Florentine Opera, L'Opéra de Montréal, Vancouver Opera, Virginia Opera, Baltimore Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, National Lyric Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Columbus, Toledo Opera, Opera Carolina, Hawaii Opera Theater, New Jersey State Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Long Beach Opera, Worcester Chorus and Masterwork Chorus to name a few. She is a native of Ohio where she began her music studies at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and also where she holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance.

**Beth Robin** (Accompanist) received her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Oberlin Conservatory and her Masters in piano performance from Indiana University School of Music. She loves working as a collaborative pianist with instrumentalists, singers, choruses and musical theater productions. She also likes to sing in choruses. Beth is on the accompanying staff at Montclair State University and is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful all women production!

**Ginny Stephens** (Accompanist) is a native of West Chester, Pennsylvania. Her education includes a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from Bob Jones University and a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from Colorado State University. She has had the privilege of accompanying a wide variety of high school, college and professional musicians. She has previously served as accompanist at Colorado State University for choirs, musical theater productions, Opera Workshop and faculty recitals, and as the rehearsal accompanist for the Virginia Opera Chorus. She is on the accompanying staff of Montclair State University and she enjoys teaching private piano at her home studio.

**Deborah Caney** (Costume Designer & Coordinator) has been designing costumes for over 25 years. She has designed costumes at regional theaters around the country, and has worked at Broadway and off-Broadway theaters. She has been designing costumes at The Luna Stage Theatre Co., in West Orange, NJ, since 2008. She is currently designing, at Luna Stage, *Torn Asunder*, written by Obie Award & Outer Critics Circle Award winning playwright, Nikkole Salter and directed by Kennedy Center Award winning director, Lisa Strum. Other recent credits include: *Ain't Misbehavin'* directed by 2019 TONY Award Winner André DeShields at NJPAC and The Crossroads Theatre Co; *Look What A Wonder*, written and directed by Walter Robinson at Martha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center.

## CAST

**Abby Brodnick** is a soprano and is pursuing an MM in Vocal Performance. She is a student of Professor Beth Roberts. She is originally from the Chicago suburbs, and attended DePauw University's School of Music for her undergraduate degree with a major in Vocal Performance and a minor in Musical Theater.

**Camryn Dewar** is a passionate and versatile soprano from Stony Mountain, Manitoba, Canada. Currently a MM in Vocal Performance, she studies under the tutelage of Barbara Dever. She also earned a BM degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Manitoba.

**Sonia Fortezza** is a soprano from New York City. As a former member of the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus, she developed a passion for opera at a young age. She obtained her BM in vocal performance with a minor in Italian studies from Binghamton University in New York. She is currently a first year MM in Vocal Performance, and studies under Beth Roberts.

**Maya Henry** is a soprano from New York. She studies with Jeffrey Gall as a senior undergraduate Vocal Performance major.

**So Yeon Kim** is a soprano from South Korea. She received her Master's degree from Manhattan School of Music and now is studying with Professor Beth Roberts as an Artist Diploma student.

**Yejin Lee** is a New York based soprano originally from South Korea. She studies with Dr. Lori McCann and is in her second year as an Artist Diploma student.

**Emma Mason** is an energetic and passionate soprano from Mendham, NJ. She is a student of Dr. Lori McCann's and is working on her BM degree in Vocal Performance.

**Natasha McFarland Rhoads** is a soprano originally from the Philadelphia suburbs. She received her BM degree in vocal performance from Westminster Choir College and is attending MSU for her MM degree in vocal performance. She is a student of Professor Barbara Dever.

**Heesoo Shin** is a soprano originally from South Korea. She received her BM in vocal music from Yonsei University and her MM from Manhattan School of Music. She is attending MSU for her Artist Diploma in Vocal Performance. She is a student of Dr. Lori McCann.

**Thalia Suleymanov** is a soprano pursuing her undergraduate degree in Vocal Performance. She is currently studying with Dr. Lori McCann.

**Jacklynn Wick** is a soprano from Jamestown, New York. She completed her undergraduate degree in music at Fredonia University. She currently studies under Professor Beth Roberts and is pursuing an MM in Vocal Performance.

*Special thanks to Prof. Tony Mazzocchi, Director, John J. Cali School of Music, Dr. Lori McCann, Coordinator, MSU Vocal Performance Program, Jeffrey Gall, Advisor of MSU Opera and all of the Applied Voice Teachers and coaches at MSU who aided in their students' preparation to make this such a successful program as well as The Luna Stage Theatre Co. of West Orange for their support of this production.*

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UP NEXT....JOIN MSU OPERA and the MSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
for a DOUBLE BILL of GIANNI SCHICCHI & BUOSO'S GHOST  
in KASSER THEATER!

Saturday, January 28, 2022 at 8:00 pm

Sunday, January 29, 2022 at 3:00 pm

Sung in the original languages with English supertitles