

**SPRING 2025  
OPERA WORKSHOP  
SECTION 1 SCENES PROGRAM  
*presents***

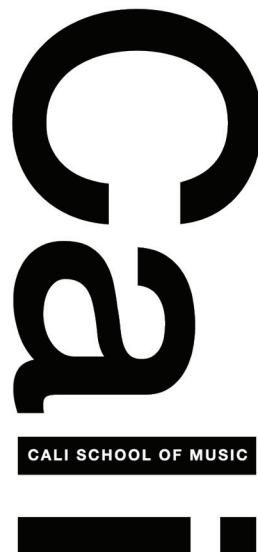
***Fairy Tales, Fantasies & Fiction***

*A Night of Love and Literature!*

Van Fossan Theater  
Monday, May 5th, 2025  
8:00 pm

**MSU Opera Workshop**

Karen Driscoll, director  
LeAnn Overton, music director  
Virginia Stephens, pianist



**MONTCLAIR STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**John J. Cali School of Music**

**"Zu Hilfe! Zu Hilfe!"  
from *Die Zauberflöte***

Music by W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)  
Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder  
(1751-1812)

*Erste Dame — Victoria Mango*  
*Zweite Dame — Sarah Sweeney*  
*Dritte Dame — Maria Jo Phelps*  
*Tamino — Dean Tarriff*

The handsome prince Tamino has wandered into a distant land and finds himself being chased by a serpent monster. He begs the gods to save him and promptly faints. Just then three ladies in the employ of the Queen of the Night appear and kill the serpent. Each one is smitten with the handsome young man and volunteers to stay with him while the others go off to tell the Queen.

**"Se viver non degg'io"  
from *Mitridate***

Music by W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)  
Libretto by Vittorio Amedeo Cigna-Santi  
(1730-1795?)

*Aspasia — Hannah Bogard*  
*Sifare — Brianna Coppolino*  
*Guards — Gabrielle Guida & Vidal Muñoz*

It has been falsely reported that Mitridate, King of Pontus, has been killed in battle. Aspasia, Mitridate's fiancée, now faces an uncertain future. Aspasia, unable to handle the gravity of her love for Sifare, who is Mitridate's son, is now contemplating suicide by poison. Sifare, heartbroken by her anguish joins her in her desire to die together.

**"La ci darem la mano"  
from *Don Giovanni***

Music by W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)  
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte (1749-1838)

*Don Giovanni — Dean Tarriff*  
*Zerlina — Jenna Ferrera*

The notorious womanizer Don Giovanni has come upon the marriage procession of the young peasant girl Zerlina. With the help of his servant Leporello, he manages to get rid of the husband Masetto and have Zerlina all to himself. Don Giovanni declares a beautiful girl such as herself deserves a better future with a nobleman than to be married to a country bumpkin. Zerlina finds the Cavalier's charisma hard to resist.

**"Vain regards... Doute de la lumière"  
from *Hamlet***

Music by Ambroise Thomas (1811-1896)  
Libretto by Michel Carré (1821-1872) and  
Jules Barbier (1825-1901)

*Ophélie — Sonia Fortezza*  
*Hamlet — Clinton Garrison*

Prince Hamlet is shocked to learn that his widowed mother will be marrying his father's brother just two months after the death of his father King Hamlet. While ruminating on this turn of events, the lovely but vulnerable Ophélie comes to find him. She is in love with Hamlet. She has heard rumors that he wants to leave the court. Hamlet assures her that his love for her is steadfast.

**"Faites-vous très belles"  
from *Cendrillon***

Music by Jules Massenet  
(1842-1912)  
Libretto by Henri Cain (1857-1937)

*Madame Haltiere — Maria Jo Phelps*  
*Noémie — Victoria Mango*  
*Dorothée — Sarah Sweeney*

The father of Cinderella (*Cendrillon*) is beginning to regret his second marriage to the overbearing Madame de la Haltière. The word spreads through the town that the King will be presenting a ball, most likely to find a suitable mate for his son, Prince Charming. The Madame gives *Cendrillon*'s two stepsisters a quick tutorial on how to capture the Prince's attention.

**"Agony"  
from *Into the Woods***

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
(1930-2021)

*Cinderella's Prince — Dean Tariff*  
*Rapunzel's Prince — Vidal Muñoz*

*Into the Woods* weaves together several beloved fairy tales but gives them a bit of a new twist. The witch has locked Rapunzel in a tower. She can only be reached by climbing her long hair. Cinderella has her golden slippers and gown but flees from the pursuits of the Prince. The Prince who has fallen in love with Rapunzel and the Prince pursuing Cinderella are brothers. They lament the fact they cannot have the women they adore.

**"Aspide, va... tutto scordiam"  
from *Pagliacci***

Music by Ruggiero Leoncavallo  
(1857-1919)  
Libretto by composer

*Nedda — Clara Luz Iranzo*  
*Sylvio — Clinton Garrison*

Nedda is part of the Commedia dell'arte troupe that travels the Italian countryside going from town to town putting on stock shows. She is no longer content with her lifestyle particularly because of her jealous controlling husband. One evening while getting ready for the nightly performance, Tonio, one of the other members of the troupe accosts her. Nedda succeeds in pushing him away but is quite shaken by his aggressive behavior. At that moment, Silvio comes to find her. Silvio is a handsome young man from the town with whom Nedda has found passion and comfort. Seeing how upset she is, Silvio assures her of his love and encourages her to run away with him.

**"She's asked for you... Have  
peace Jo"  
from *Little Women***

Music & Libretto by Mark Adamo (b.1962)

*Beth — Sydney Swearengin*  
*Jo — Gabrielle Guida*  
*Gideon — Vidal Muñoz*  
*S1 — Jenna Ferrera. ~ S2 — Brianna Coppolino*  
*S3 — Jacklynn Wick ~ S4 — Maria Jo Phelps*

This family of four sisters--Jo, Meg, Amy, Beth-- pull closer together when their father leaves their New England home and goes to fight in America's Civil War. The games that created their strong childhood bond eventually recede into the past as the sisters strike out on their own. However, Beth, the youngest sister, has stayed at the family home. On several occasions she has gone over to help some less fortunate neighbors. It is during one of these visits that she contracts scarlet fever. When the oldest sister Jo hears the news, she rushes home to be with her.

**"Oh Rivers and Seas and Lakes"  
from *The Turn of the Screw***

Music and Libretto by Benjamin Britten  
(1913-1976)  
Libretto by Myfanwy Piper (1911-1997)

*Flora — Sonia Fortezza*  
*Governess — Jacklynn Wick*  
*Miles — Brianna Coppolino*

The young Governess has taken a guardian position of two young children, Flora and Miles. The old English country house is beautiful if not somewhat isolated. The longer the Governess spends with the adorable children, the more she begins to feel something sinister has happened. These fears are confirmed when the housekeeper tells her of the mysterious deaths of the valet and the former governess. The

Governess shudders as she has seen their ghosts! One afternoon the Governess and Flora are sitting by the small lake on the property. Flora begins to act rather strangely. Fear overwhelms the Governess when she looks up to see the ghost of the former governess, Miss Jessel.

**"I see their knavery... Be Kind and Courteous"  
from *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

Music by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
Libretto by composer and Peter Pears  
(1910-1986)

*Bottom — Vidal Muñoz*  
*Titania — Hannah Bogard*  
*Peaseblossom — Jenna Ferrera*  
*Cobweb — Sarah Sweeney*  
*Moth — Sydney Swearengin*  
*Mustardseed — Brianna Coppolino*

The fairy-king Oberon is having a quarrel with his queen Tytania as she has refused to give him a small boy to be his ward. As punishment, Oberon sends his servant Puck to put the juice of a magic flower in her eyes so that when she awakes, she will fall in love with the first creature she sees. Meanwhile, Bottom and his band of fellow actors are in the woods rehearsing their play. In a mood of mischievousness, Puck transforms Bottom into an ass. When Tytania awakens in her forest bed, she is immediately enraptured. She calls on her four attendants to see to his needs.

**"Poor Bairn...I have dreamt  
in my life dreams"  
from *Wuthering Heights***

Music by Bernard Hermann (1911-1975)  
Libretto by Lucille Fletcher (1912-2000)

*Nelly — Gabrielle Guida*  
*Cathy — Clara Luz Iranzo*  
*Heathcliff — Dean Tarriff*

Catherine Earnshaw has grown up at Wuthering Heights in the West Yorkshire moors. After a business trip to Liverpool, her father brings home an orphan who he treats as one of his own children. Heathcliff and Catherine develop a deep and complicated friendship. Catherine's brother Hindley despises Heathcliff and as soon as the father dies, he forces Heathcliff to live as a servant. The years pass and Catherine grows into a beautiful young lady. One afternoon as she and Heathcliff are out on the moors and close to the Linton estate, the Linton's dog attacks her. The Linton family takes her in. After a while, Edgar Linton proposes marriage. Catherine accepts his proposal mostly because of his social status. Back at Wuthering Heights, things are in turmoil. In a drunken stupor, Hindley threatens his own child. The servant Nelly comforts the child while Catherine confesses her doubts about marrying Edgar.

**"Thanks for Nothing, Wilhelmina" and  
"The Men I Am Not Married To"  
from *The Men I Am Not Married To***

Music by Lisa DeSpain (b.1964)  
Libretto by Rachel J. Peters (b. 1977)

*Evelyn — Sydney Swearengin  
Mildred — Jenna Ferrera  
Frances — Jacklynn Wick*

It is the summer of 1924 and three young bridesmaids are in the powder room at the wedding reception of their friend Wilhelmina. They are all disenchanted with their assigned groomsmen. They muse on what a woman is worth in this day and age when not tied to her marital prospects.

**"You're Nothing Without Me"  
from *City of Angels***

Music by Cy Coleman (1929-2004)  
Lyrics by David Zippel (b. 1954)

*Stine — Dean Tariff  
Stone — Vidal Muñoz*

Stine is the Hollywood screenwriter who creates Stone, a tough Los Angeles private eye. In 1940 the detective genre is thriving in Hollywood and Stone's character enjoys a big fan following. However, when Stone objects to the way the storyline has developed, he and his creator get into a bit of a scuffle.

**"Heia, heia in den Bergen"  
from *Csárdasfürstin***

Music by Emmerich Kálmán (1882-1953)  
Libretto by Leo Stein (1861-1921) and Bela  
Jenbach (1871-1943)

*Sylva — Jacklynn Wick  
Ensemble*

Sylva Varescu is a beautiful professional cabaret performer from Budapest. In the early 20th century, many of the European performers solidified their fame by touring America. When Sylva returns from her tour, upon pressure from his father, her beau Edwin is about to be engaged to another woman of higher social rank. Sylva's standing in society would be just that of a "csardas princess." As it turns out, perhaps the prejudice of Edwin's father is because he himself married a famous cabaret singer! However, everything turns out well for the young couple and united at last, they head off together on another American tour.

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

### **MSU OPERA WORKSHOP**

Karen Driscoll, director

### **MUSICAL PREPARATION**

LeAnn Overton, music director/coach/repetiteur

Virginia Stephens, pianist/coach/repetiteur

### **SCENES COACHES**

Michael Caldwell

Peiwen Chen

William Hobbs

Mory Ortman

Mary Pinto

Victoria Schwartzman

Grant Wenaus

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

**Direction & Concept:** Karen Driscoll

**Lighting Designer:** Taylor Droege

**Program notes:** LeAnn Overton

**Costume & Props Assistants:** Hannah Bogard, Jenna Ferrera,  
Maria Jo Phelps, Jacklyn Wick

**Titles Creation:** Opera Workshop Class 1

**Titles Caller:** Thalia Sulyemanov

**Publicity Design:** Heather Kern

**Social Media:** Hannah Bogard

**Videographer:** Alexa Tabbachino

**Opera Graduate Assistant:** Hannah Bogard

Special thanks to Prof. Tony Mazzocchi, Director, John J. Cali School of Music, Dr. Lori McCann & Professor Beth Roberts, Co-Coordinator, MSU Vocal Performance Program, and all of the Applied Voice Teachers at MSU who aided in their students' preparation to make this such a successful program.