

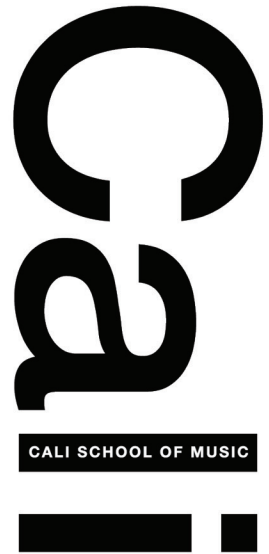
**SPRING 2026
OPERA WORKSHOP
SECTION 1 SCENES PROGRAM**
presents

*Schemers, Dreamers,
Lovers and Leavers*

*A night where passion sings, ambition plots,
and fate has the final note!*

Van Fossan Theater
Monday, May 4th, 2026
8:00 pm

MSU Opera Workshop
Karen Driscoll, director
LeAnn Overton, music director
William Hobbs, pianist



"Um in der Ehe froh zu leben"
from *Fidelio*

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)
Libretto by Joseph Sonnleithner (1805)

Marcelline — Sonia Fortezza
Leonora — Seul Lee

In an attempt to find her husband who is a political prisoner, Leonore has arrived at the jail disguised as the young man Fidelio. The jailer's daughter, Marcelline, is drawn to the new visitor. Leonore strives to balance listening to Marcelline's dreams of the future and marriage without leading her on.

**"Una donna a quindici
anni...Sorella cosa dice...
Prenderò quel brunettino"**
from *Così fan tutte*

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

Despina — Vera Grossman
Fiordiligi — Jenna Ferrera
Dorabella — Kathryn Radcliffe

Unbeknownst to the sisters Fiordiligi and Dorabella, their soldier boyfriends have been challenged by the crusty bachelor Don Alfonso who declares that women cannot remain faithful. The young men scoff at his attitude and after agreeing to a bet, accept the rules of his challenge. They are called off to "war" and return in elaborate disguise to woo each other's betrothed. For a little cash, Don Alfonso enlists the help of the maid Despina who encourages the girls to let go and flirt a little. At first the sisters are unsure if flirting would technically mean betraying their sweethearts but eventually give in to the idea. Each confesses something about the "foreigner" she likes most. Until their men get back from "war" they will have a little fun.

"Nous avons fait un beau voyage!"
from *Ciboulette*

Music by Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)
Libretto by Robert de Flers (1872-1927) and
Francis de Croisset (1877-1937)

Ciboulette — Vasilisa Pjevović
Duparquet — Tyler Kriney

It's a delightful spring day. Duparquet, the controller for the market place Les Halles in the center of Paris, takes Ciboulette, a vivacious young farm girl through the village of Aubervilliers. They make wonderful discoveries and greet the village folk.

**"I feel pretty"
from *West Side Story***

Music by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
Book by Arthur Laurents
(1917-2011)

*Maria — Vera Grossman
Francisca — Vasilisa Pjevović
Rosalia — Kathryn Radcliffe
Consuelo — Xinyi Ma*

West Side Story is the modern reimagining of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Set in New York City, the Puerto Rican immigrant Maria has fallen in love with Tony, the former leader of the Jets, her brother Chino's rival gang. Maria meets Tony at the high school dance, and it is love at first sight. When Maria arrives at work the next day, her co-workers have fun teasing her irrepressible joy.

**"Dieu, qui fis, l'homme à ton image....
Ô pur bonheur!"
from *Roméo et Juliette***

Music by Charles Gounod
(1818-1893)
Libretto by Jules Barbier (1825-1901) and
Michel Carré (1821-1872)

*Fr. Laurent — Grant Anderson
Juliette — Hailey Ji
Gertrude — Xinyi Ma
Romeo — SeongBoem Choi
Alec Hamilton, conductor*

The young star-crossed lovers from rival families, Roméo Montague and Juliette Capulet wish to get married against the will of Juliette's parents. Juliette's nurse Gertrude takes the couple to Father Laurence who is sympathetic to their ardent new love. He presides over the ritual with solemn dignity.

**"Encore ces maudites fèves!"
from *Dialogues des Carmélites***

Music by Francis Poulenc
(1899-1963)
Libretto by the composer

*Constance — Sonia Fortezza
Blanche — Jacklynn Wick*

The French Revolution is reaching its peak. Blanche de la Force, from an aristocratic family, joins the order of the Carmelite nuns in order to remain safe. Blanche and another novitiate, Sister Constance, have been delegated to cleaning duties. Blanche is annoyed by Constance's cheerful chatter and nostalgia, especially while the Reverend Mother is gravely ill.

**"Questa repentina
chiamata...Cheti, cheti
from Don Pasquale**

Music by Gaetano Donizetti
(1797-1848)

Libretto by the Composer and Giovanni Ruffini
(1807-1881)

*Malatesta — Dean Tarriff
Don Pasquale — Grant Anderson*

Don Pasquale does not approve of the young lady his nephew Ernesto wishes to marry. Therefore, he declares that he will disinherit Ernesto and choose a bride for himself. Malatesta, Don Pasquale's personal physician, knows how much Ernesto loves Norina, so he sells the old man on the idea that his "sister," Sofronia, who is in a convent, would make the perfect wife. Malatesta gets Norina to act the part perfectly. Once the faux marriage certificate is signed, Norina turns into a shrew completely dominating the old man and his household. As part of the plan to have Don Pasquale give up the idea of marriage, Norina leaves a note from a "suitor", saying that she will keep a rendezvous in the garden that evening. Don Pasquale is outraged as he tells Malatesta of "Sofronia's" betrayal but it will make the perfect reason to divorce her. He can't wait to catch the couple.

**"E un anatema"
from La Gioconda**

Music by Amilcare Ponchielli (1834-1886)
Libretto by Arrigo Boito (1842-1918)

*Gioconda — Seul Lee
Laura — Maria Jo Phelps*

La Gioconda is a beautiful street singer who has captured the eye of Barnaba, a spy for the Inquisition. When she escapes his advances, he vows vengeance. That very day on the streets of Venice, he calls her blind mother a witch. The Genoese lady Laura steps from the crowd and protects the mother from Barnaba's false accusations. In gratitude, Gioconda's mother gives Laura her rosary. Laura was once the intended of the sea captain Enzo Grimaldo but was forced to marry another man. Gioconda harbors deep feelings for Enzo and wants to be the only woman in his life. After Gioconda discovers that Enzo has come to Venice to take Laura away with him, she goes out to Enzo's boat to confront her rival.

**"Parigi o cara"
from *La Traviata***

Music by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave
(1810-1876)

*Violetta — Kailey Diggs
Alfredo — SeongBoem Choi
Annina — Xinyi Ma*

Tristan Hughes, conductor

Violetta is dying from tuberculosis and has resigned herself never again to see her beloved, Alfredo. When her maid Annina receives Alfredo, she is worried that the shock of seeing him again will be too much for Violetta. But their reunion is joyful and emotional. Alfredo proposes they return to Paris, the place where they spent the first blissful days of their romance. In a sudden surge of energy, Violetta insists they go to church and thank God for Alfredo's return.

**"Ей, Наталко, не дровичся!"
from *Natalka Poltavka***

Music by Mykola Lysenko
(1842-1912)
Libretto by Mykhailo Starytsky
(1840-1904)

*Natalka — Anna Kodak
Terpilikha — Grace Pflieger
Vyborny — Grant Anderson*

Natalka and her mother Terpilikha live in an impoverished peasant hut after the death of Natalka's father. Natalka is in love with the village boy Petró who has left to go seek his fortune and to prove his worthiness. Petró has been gone for three years. The mayor Vyborny comes to the hut to persuade Natalka to marry the wealthy villager, Vozny, an older man. Natalka tearfully agrees only so that her mother will be well cared for.

**"So muß allein ich bleiben..."
from *Die Fledermaus***

Music by Johann Strauss II
(1825-1899)
Libretto by Richard Genée (1823-1895) and
Carl Haffner
(1804-1876)

*Rosalinde — Jacklynn Wick
Adele — Vasilisa Pjevović
Eisenstein — Damon Dellanno
Dr. Falke — Tyler Kriney*

Eisenstein is a well to do Viennese man-about-town. He is sentenced to a few days in jail after insulting an official. However, working on a major plan of revenge is Eisenstein's friend Dr. Falke. After a night of debauchery, Eisenstein left Falke drunk in the middle of the town square, and in a bat costume no less! Eisenstein does not know that Falke has invited him, his wife Rosalinde, and their maid Adele, to a masked ball with the idea of trapping him in a similarly compromising situation. Each one of them must convince the other they are not happy about the evening's plans.

**"Marie Theres"
from *Der Rosenkavalier***

Music by Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal
(1874-1929)

*Sophie — Hailey Ji
Marschallin — Kailey Diggs
Octavian — Grace Pflieger*

The Marschallin, who is married to the highly ranked Field Marshal in the Viennese army, has enjoyed the romantic attention of the young Count Octavian. When she learns of her boorish cousin's upcoming wedding, she sends Octavian to deliver the ceremonial silver rose of engagement to his intended, the beautiful girl Sophie. The two young people fall instantly in love. The Marschallin graciously releases him with a sigh, knowing this day would come.

**"A nice mess you've got me in!"
from *The Old Maid and the Thief***

Music by Gian Carlo Menotti (1911-2007)
Libretto by Composer

*Laetitia — Jenna Ferrera
Bob — Tyler Kriney*

Miss Todd is an older woman, upstanding in her community. Her maid Laetitia tolerates the old woman but is waiting for something to change. The chance comes when Miss Todd takes in a vagabond, Bob. Miss Todd breaks all the rules to keep the handsome stranger in her home, including robbing the liquor store. When news spreads that there is a rash of burglaries in the next town over, suspicion falls on Bob who has nothing to do with the crimes.

**"When birds get old enough...
We'll go away together"
from *Street Scene***

Music by Kurt Weill (1900-1950)
Libretto by Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

*Rose — Vasilisa Pjevović
Sam — Damon Dellanno*

Good friends Sam Kaplan and Rose Maurant live in a tenement building on NYC's lower east side. The building is full of immigrants looking for a better life in America. Sam is studying law and Rose works in an office. Rose's family is not doing well mostly due to the suffocating behavior of her father. Sam and Rose are tired of hearing the neighbors gossip about the family and wonder if life could be better somewhere else.

**"Sorry friends, I've got to run..."
from *Meow and Forever***

Music by Jodi Goble (b. 1974)
Libretto by Basil Considine (b. 1981)

*Bailey — Jacklynn Wick
Nala — Anna Kodak
Chester — Dean Tarriff*

Bailey is swept away in a whirlwind romance with Asha, neglecting her other obligations and annoying her two cats, Nala and Chester.

**"Soon as we may"
parody from *Iolanthe***

Composed by Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)
Words by Karen Driscoll

Company

Hurray! School is finished!

PRODUCTION TEAM

MSU OPERA

Karen Driscoll, Head of Artistic Operations/Opera
William Hobbs, Music Coordinator/Opera

MUSICAL PREPARATION

LeAnn Overton, music director/coach/repetiteur
William Hobbs, pianist/coach/repetiteur

SCENES COACHES

Michael Caldwell
Peiwen Chen
Mory Ortman
Mary Pinto
Victoria Schwartzman
Grant Wenaus

PRODUCTION TEAM

Direction & Concept: Karen Driscoll

Assistant Director: Anna Kodak

Lighting Designer: Taylor Droege

Program notes: LeAnn Overton

Costume & Props Assistants: Kailey Diggs, Anna Kodak, Jacklynn Wick

Titles Creation: Opera Workshop Class 1/Kailey Diggs

Titles Caller: Gabrielle Guida

Publicity Design: Heather Kern

Social Media: Kailey Diggs, Maria Jo Phelps

Opera Graduate Assistant: Kailey Diggs

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