



Friday, May 7, 2021 | 7:30 PM

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC OPERA THEATRE**  
Tazewell Thompson, Director of Opera Studies

presents

DISCOVER OPERA! 2021

***GRIMM REALITY***

**Gordon Ostrowski**, Stage Director

**Mark Janas**, Co-Book Writer & Music Director

**Adam B. Shapiro**, Co-Book Writer & Video Editor

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*MSM Community Partnerships are generously supported by the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, the Rubin-Ladd Foundation, the Barker Welfare Foundation, an anonymous family foundation, and other generous donors. An endowment to support the Annual Janet Bookspan Memorial Concert for Children and Families was made possible by the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation.*

# A NOTE FROM MARK JANAS

This has been an unusual year for the entire world, and the Discover Opera program at Manhattan School of Music is no exception. Normally at this time of year we would be taking a fully staged and costumed original show, written by the students (structure, dialogue and lyrics!), into schools for live performances. This year's presentation, inspired by fairy tales written by the famous brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, was conceived and created for video.

With just a bit of help, mostly on the lyrics, from me and from some members of Discover Opera's student cast, the script was written by our talented collaborator Adam B. Shapiro, who also designed and edited the video. Stage director Gordon Ostrowski guided us dramaturgically and coached the cast members in their acting, and I created the musical arrangements and accompaniments and taught the cast their music.

It is a new and interesting challenge to make music when your cast, most of whom have never met you or each other in person, are rehearsing and performing via zoom meetings. Half of our cast members were literally half a world away. But it was a challenge that this wonderfully committed and talented cast took on with great heart and enthusiasm.

We hope you enjoy the results, and that the students who view this learn about the structure and vocabulary of opera in an entertaining and fun manner.

*–Mark Janas*

# CAST

(in order of appearance)

<b>Ruoxi Bian</b>	<i>Snow White &amp; Granny</i>
<b>Nick Calabrese</b>	<i>Willy Grimm &amp; Witch</i>
<b>Zheliang Huang</b>	<i>Fairy Godfather &amp; Tito Dwarf</i>
<b>Jooeun Kim</b>	<i>Cinderella &amp; Mimi Dwarf</i>
<b>Sehyun Lee</b>	<i>Prince &amp; Domingo Dwarf</i>
<b>Wen Liu</b>	<i>Cheyne &amp; Sophie Dwarf</i>
<b>Ongama Mhlontlo</b>	<i>Rumpelstiltskin &amp; Hunter</i>
<b>Jihyun Park</b>	<i>Vannapunzel &amp; Red Riding Hood</i>
<b>Churan Qiu</b>	<i>Gretel &amp; Azu</i>
<b>Nathan Seldin</b>	<i>Jake Grimm &amp; Tom Thumb</i>
<b>Adam B. Shapiro</b>	<i>Voice of the Network Executive</i>
<b>Yi Yang</b>	<i>Frog Prince &amp; Big Bad Wolf</i>
<b>Siyuan Yin</b>	<i>Hansel &amp; Magic Mirror</i>

Students in this performance are supported by the *International Advisory Board Scholarship*.

We are grateful to the generous donors who made these scholarships possible. For information on establishing a named scholarship at Manhattan School of Music, please contact Susan Madden, Vice President for Advancement, at 917-493-4115 or [smadden@msmnyc.edu](mailto:smadden@msmnyc.edu).

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## **Gordon Ostrowski, Stage Director & Narrator**

“Mr. O” is proud to be a native Michigander. He played the alto saxophone in the marching and concert bands at Carsonville High School. He made his theatrical debut in his junior class play portraying Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. One of his fondest memories is watching the U.S. debut of the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964. After graduating from Central Michigan University with a degree in English Literature, Speech, and Drama, he taught at Clawson High School, where he directed all the class plays. He has been a stage director and avid theatergoer ever since.

## **Mark Janas, Co-Book Writer & Music Director**

When Mark was three, he began picking out tunes on the toy piano his mother bought him, so soon after that his very smart mother found him a grown-up sized piano and a teacher. Since that time, very few days have passed that Mark has not played the piano. He also composes, music directs, arranges, and conducts music and plays the piano for many of New York’s best singers. Making music has not only allowed him to work with thousands of other musicians, but has also taken him to 45 of the 50 states, as well as to many other countries around the world.

## **Adam B. Shapiro, Co-Book Writer & Video Editor**

As a performer, Adam has performed all over the country and the world in both English and Yiddish. Off-Broadway credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish, *Bastard Jones*, *The Mikado—Reimagined*, *The Golden Bride*, and *Gimpel the Fool*. Other stage credits include *Ragtime*, *She Loves Me*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Footloose*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Film and TV audiences might recognize Adam from *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Master of None*, *30 Rock*, *The Mysteries of Laura*, Adam Sandler’s *The Cobbler*, and HBO’s Emmy-winning film *The Normal Heart*.

Once the pandemic forced everything online, Adam developed the critically acclaimed variety series *(Still A) Live from Shapiro Hall* with his roommate, opera singer Janice Hall. Adam then produced and directed a star-studded Chanukah Spectacular for the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene. He is thrilled to be developing the first online Discover Opera! for Manhattan School of Music. [www.adambshapiro.com](http://www.adambshapiro.com)

## DISCOVER OPERA! PERSONNEL

### OPERA AND MUSICAL THEATRE PERSONNEL

Christina Teichroew, Managing Director

Kathryn Miller, Assistant Managing Director

Erin Reppenhagen, Associate

Josi Petersen Brown, Assistant

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS STAFF

Rebecca Charnow, Director of Community Partnerships

Donna Galván, Assistant Director of Community Partnerships

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Brianna Poh, Associate Director of Production

Elizabeth Ramsay, Interim Associate Production Manager

Brittany Crowell, Production Manager

Emily Cauthorne, Associate Production Manager

## OPERA AT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Recognized as one of the foremost opera training programs in the world, Manhattan School of Music's opera program attracts some of the most talented young singers from the United States and more than forty other countries. Students in the program refine their technique and develop their artistry under the guidance of a faculty of eminent artist-teachers while gaining exposure before New York City audiences through performances in opera scenes, community outreach concerts, and two full-length productions each year.

The Manhattan School of Music opera program has a long and proud tradition of producing some of the finest operatic artists in America and abroad. Manhattan School of Music's opera productions have been praised as a significant contribution to operatic life in New York City, and many students have gone on to major careers. Among notable alumnae are sopranos Dawn Upshaw, Catherine Malfitano, Alexandra Deshorties, Kathleen Kim, and Tonna Miller and mezzo-sopranos Susan Graham, Dolora Zajick, Jennifer Dudley, and Kate Aldrich of the Metropolitan Opera. Alumni who have appeared at the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera are sopranos Lauren Flanigan, Pamela Armstrong, Lori Guilbeau, and Amy Johnson; mezzo-sopranos Beth Clayton and Heather Johnson; countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo; tenors Matthew Chellis and Brandon Jovanovich; and baritone Scott Altman. Another noted alumnus is Maestro George Manahan, Music Director of the American Composers Orchestra and Director of Orchestral Activities at MSM.

Manhattan School of Music has issued CDs of Ned Rorem's *Miss Julie*, Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring*, Gaetano Donizetti's *Il campanello di notte*, Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, Gustav Holst's *Savitri*, Ludwig Spohr's *Beauty and the Beast*, the world premiere recordings of Daniel Catán's *Rappaccini's Daughter*, William Mayer's *A Death in the Family*, Scott Eylerly's *The House of the Seven Gables*, Robert Ward's *Roman Fever*, Thomas Pasatieri's *The Seagull*, Lee Hoiby's *A Month in the Country*, John Musto's *Later the Same Evening*, Lee Hoiby's *Summer and Smoke*, Virgil Thomson's *The Mother of Us All*, Conrad Susa's *The Dangerous Liaisons*, and Nicolas Isouard's *Cendrillon*.

## **MSM OPERA THEATRE**

Tazewell Thompson, Director of Opera Studies  
Miriam Charney, Contemporary Opera Ensemble  
Andy Gale, Spring Cabaret  
Myra Huang, Opera Scenes  
Mark Janas, Discover Opera!  
Kristen Kemp, Opera Scenes  
Thomas Muraco, Opera Scenes  
Gordon Ostrowski, Discover Opera! & Amato Opera-In-Brief  
LeAnn Overton, Amato Opera-In-Brief  
Jorge Luis Parodi, Senior Opera Theatre  
Nicolò Sbuelz, Opera Scenes  
Shane Schag, Spring Cabaret

## **VOICE FACULTY**

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Catherine Malfitano  
James Morris  
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Neil Rosenshein

## **RELATED VOICE STUDIES**

Raymond Beegle  
Miriam Charney  
Patrick Diamond  
Warren Jones  
Kathryn LaBouff  
Carolyn Marlow  
Kenneth Merrill  
Glenn Morton  
Thomas Muraco  
Nils Neubert  
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Calvin Johnson, Manager of Jazz Operations

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Julie Dombroski, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Hannah Marks, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Matthew Ward, Percussion Operations Manager

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Victor Madorsky, Performance Tuner/Technician

Hide Onishi, Chief Concert Technician

Richard Short, Maintenance Manager

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Brianna Poh, Associate Director

Elizabeth Ramsay, Interim Associate Production Manager

Brittany Crowell, Production Manager, Opera and Musical Theatre

Emily Cauthorne, Associate Production Manager, Opera and Musical Theatre

Andres Diaz Jr., Production Supervisor

Keri Bush, Production Coordinator

Alexis Caldwell, Production Coordinator

Tyler Donahue, Production Coordinator

Dash Lea, Production Coordinator

Pamela Pangaro, Lead Technician

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Luke Breton, Associate

Ramon Tenefrancia, Associate



# THE ORTO CENTER FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND RECORDING ARTS

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David Marsh, Program Manager

Dan Rorke, Chief Recording Engineer

Kevin Bourassa, Recording Engineer

Corey Mahaney, Recording Engineer

Mohit Diskalkar, Network Systems Engineer

Yue Mu, Instructional Designer

Roan Ma, Recording Services Coordinator

Graceon Challenger, Chief Maintenance Technician

## ABOUT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today MSM is recognized for its more than 960 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 50 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds.

The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

### Your gift helps a young artist reach for the stars!

To enable Manhattan School of Music to continue educating and inspiring generations of talented students and audiences alike, please consider making a charitable contribution today.

Contact the Advancement Office at 917-493-4434 or visit [msmnyc.edu/support](https://msmnyc.edu/support)

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