

**MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC OPERA THEATRE**

Tazewell Thompson, Director of Opera Studies

Junior Opera Theatre presents

***Le Mystère et la Magie de l'Amour***

***An Evening of French Opera Scenes***

**Catherine Malfitano**, Artistic & Video Conception and Direction

**Chun-Wei Kang**, Music Direction and Pianist

**Simon Yu**, Photography Direction and Video Editor

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On this 16th day of June 2021, I look back over these past 15 months at MSM, full of wonderment, joy, and gratitude. Throughout this entire time of the world's pandemic horrors, our response to this disaster has been nothing short of miraculous! Creativity has flourished, and we've all experienced an explosion of serendipitous silver linings.

I am proud of what our Junior Opera Ensemble has achieved this year. These 27 singers have shown enthusiasm, curiosity, and grit. Please enjoy these French opera scenes and savor the brilliance and ever-growing artistry of tonight's cast. It is all about the mystery and magic of love, isn't it?

Without LOVE none of this could have happened. It has been an honor to lead the way through these uncharted waters. My thanks to Manhattan School of Music, my production team, and all these future stars, for sharing this blessed journey!

—Catherine Malfitano

# A NOTE ON THE PROGRAM

Junior Opera Theatre's "Le Mystère et la Magie de l'Amour: An Evening of French Opera Scenes" also pays tribute to the Juneteenth holiday this June 19, celebrating the emancipation of American slaves, with a very special offering. The music we are including is a part of MSM's season-long Black Creators Initiative showcasing works by Black Americans.

Tonight, we feature four songs from the cycle entitled *From the Diary of Sally Hemings*. William Bolcom and Sandra Seaton created this song cycle of 18 songs, which was premiered in 2000 with Florence Quivar. In this cycle they gave a voice to the extraordinary Sally in the form of fictitious diary entries. There are many mysteries connected with Sally Hemings (1773–1835). She never wrote her own diary. However, we know that she became the "concubine" of Thomas Jefferson. While in Paris with him as one of his enslaved domestics, she could have remained in France and lived "free" of American slavery's bondage. Instead, she chose to return to Monticello after she negotiated the eventual early emancipation for her six children with Jefferson.

—Catherine Malfitano

**PROGRAM**

***La Périchole***

**Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880)**

**Libretto by Henri Meilhac & Ludovic Halévy**

“Le conquérant dit à la jeune Indienne”

*Piquillo*                      Mathieu Levan  
*Périchole*                     Ria Iparraguirre

“Vous a-t-on dit souvent” (Le muletier et la jeune personne)

*Piquillo*                      Mathieu Levan  
*Périchole*                     Ria Iparraguirre

***From the Diary of Sally Hemings Selections***

**William Bolcom (b. 1938)**

**Lyrics by Sandra Seaton**

*Sally*                              Chira Bell

Eric Sedgwick, guest pianist

***Ciboulette***

**Reynaldo Hahn (1874–1947)**

**Libretto by Robert de Flers & Francois de Croisset**

“Les parents, quand on est bébé...”

*Antonin*                        Milutin Jovic  
*Ciboulette*                    Hyunyoung Irene Shin

“Ah! Si vous étiez Nicolas...”

*Ciboulette*                    Hina Zhang  
*Antonin*                        Simon Staples

“Nous avons fait un bon voyage...”

*Duparquet*                    Milutin Jovic  
*Ciboulette*                    Nikkole Dittler

***Lakmé***

**Léo Delibes (1836–1891)**

**Libretto by Edmund Gondinet & Philippe Gille**

“Viens, Mallika...Dôme épais...” (Flower Duet)

*Lakmé*                            Rose Iannuzzi  
*Mallika*                         Sarah Marguerite Lassiter

***Cendrillon***

**Jules Massenet (1842–1912)**

**Libretto by Henri Cain**

“Ma pauvre enfant chérie!”

*Cendrillon*

Georgina Wu

*Pandolfe*

Fernando Watts

***Le roi de Labore***

**Jules Massenet**

**Libretto by Louis Gallet**

“C’est le soir, la brise pure...”

*Sita*

Maia Gonzalez

*Kaled*

Adja Thomas

*Pause (3 minutes)*

***Carmen***

**Georges Bizet (1838–1875)**

**Libretto by Henri Meilhac & Ludovic Halévy**

“Nous avons en tête une affaire!”

*Carmen*

Ariel Wei

*Frasquita*

Elizabeth Anderson

*Mercédès*

Abigail Dutler

*Remendado*

Kevin Lee

*Dancaïro*

Ross Macatangay

***Roméo et Juliette***

**Charles Gounod (1818–1893)**

**Libretto by Jules Barbier & Michel Carré**

“Ange adorable...” (Madrigal)

*Roméo*

Kevin Lee

*Juliette*

Seolbin Oh

***Cendrillon***

**Jules Massenet**

**Libretto by Henri Cain**

“Toi qui m’es apparue...”

*Le Prince*  
*Cendrillon*

Ricardo Rodriguez  
Chira Bell

***Mireille***

**Charles Gounod**

**Libretto by Michel Carré**

“Mireille! Qui m’appelle?”

*Vincennette*  
*Mireille*

Anna Maria Vacca  
Ashia Barnes

***Orphée aux Enfers***

**Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880)**

**Libretto by Hector Crémieux & Ludovic Halévy**

“Il m’a semblé sur mon épaule...” (Duo de la mouche)

*Eurydice*  
*Jupiter*

Lexi Brown  
Ross Macatangay

***Les Pêcheurs de perles***

**Georges Bizet**

**Libretto by Eugène Cormon & Michel Carré**

“Au fond du temple saint...”

*Nadir*  
*Zurga*

Daniel Espinal  
Benjamin Sokol

***Les Contes d’Hoffmann***

**Jacques Offenbach**

**Libretto by Jules Barbier**

“Belle nuit, ô nuit d’amour...” (Barcarolle)

*Nicklausse*  
*Giulietta*

Alexandra Cirile  
Abigail Dutler

**Ensemble**

# MEET THE PERFORMERS

**Elizabeth Anderson**, soprano  
Student of Ruth Golden  
*Marshall, Wisconsin*

**Ashia Barnes**, soprano  
Student of Mignon Dunn  
*Honolulu, Hawaii*

**Chira Bell**, soprano  
Student of Catherine Malfitano  
*Winchester, Virginia*

**Lexi Brown**, soprano  
Student of Mignon Dunn  
*Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*

**Alexandra Cirile**, mezzo soprano  
Student of Ruth Golden  
*Los Angeles, California*

**Nikkole Dittler**, soprano  
Student of Ashley Putnam  
*Scottsdale, Arizona*

**Abigail Dutler**, soprano  
Student of Maitland Peters  
*Vernon Hills, Illinois*

**Daniel Espinal**, tenor  
Student of Shirley Close  
*Sarasota, Florida*

**Maia Gonzalez**, soprano  
Student of Ashley Putnam  
*Long Island, New York*

**Rose Iannuzzi**, soprano  
Student of Ruth Golden  
*Royal Oak, Michigan*

**Ria Iparraguirre**, soprano  
Student of Neil Rosenshein  
*New York, New York*

**Milutin Jovic**, baritone  
Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell  
*Belgrade, Serbia*

**Sarah Marguerite Lassiter**, soprano  
Student of Ruth Golden  
*Winston-Salem, North Carolina*

**Kevin Lee**, tenor  
Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell  
*Singapore*

**Mathieu Levan**, tenor  
Student of Marlena Malas  
*Paris, France*

**Ross Macatangay**, baritone  
Student of Ashley Putnam  
*New York, New York*

**Seolbin Oh**, soprano  
Student of Edith Bers  
*Seoul, South Korea*

**Ricardo Javier Rodriguez**, tenor  
Student of Ruth Golden  
*Montevideo, Uruguay*

**Hyunyoung Irene Shin**, soprano  
Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell  
*Seoul, Korea*

**Benjamin Sokol**, bass-baritone  
Student of James Morris  
*Boston, Massachusetts*

**Simon Staples**, baritone  
Student of Mark Oswald  
*Bend, Oregon*

**Adja Thomas**, mezzo soprano  
Student of Harolyn Blackwell  
*Long Island, New York*

**Anna Maria Vacca**, mezzo soprano  
Student of Catherine Malfitano  
*Providence, Rhode Island*

**Fernando Watts**, bass-baritone  
Student of Ruth Golden  
*Barbados*

**Ariel Wei**, mezzo soprano  
Student of Mignon Dunn  
*Beijing, China*

**Georgina Wu**, mezzo soprano  
Student of Mignon Dunn  
*Beijing, China*

**Hina Zhang**, mezzo soprano  
Student of Maitland Peters  
*Nagoya City, Japan*

Students in this performance are supported by the *Lado Scholarship*, the *Bettina Baruch Foundation Scholarship*, the *Mae Zenke Orvis Opera Scholarship*, the *Alexandra Hunt Endowed Vocal Scholarship*, and the *Birgit Nilsson 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

## Catherine Malfitano, Artistic and Video Conception and Direction

Catherine Malfitano, singer, actor, director, and teacher, was born in New York City to a dancer/actress mother and violinist father. Her Emmy-award winning portrayal of *Tosca*, broadcast live from the actual Roman settings of the opera, was seen by more than one billion viewers worldwide.

Renowned as a unique music theatre performer, Ms. Malfitano has appeared at all the world's leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Vienna State Opera, La Scala, the Bavarian State Opera, the Paris Opera, the Royal Opera Covent Garden, Berlin's Deutsche Opera and State Opera, the Salzburg Festival, Florence's Teatro Comunale, the San Francisco Opera, the Netherlands Opera, the Los Angeles Opera, the Houston Grand Opera, the Théâtre du Chatelet in Paris, the Grand Théâtre du Genève, Barcelona's Liceu, the Hamburg State Opera, and Brussels's Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie.

Catherine Malfitano's stage repertoire of more than 70 roles spans the entirety of operatic history. Some of her many varied roles were Monteverdi's Poppea and Ottavia, Donizetti's Adina and Lucia; Humperdinck's Gretel; Beethoven's Marzelline and Leonore; Berg's Lulu and Marie; Mozart's Konstanze, Susanna, Zerlina, and Donna Elvira; Rossini's Rosina and Fiorilla; Janáček's Katya, Emilia Marty, and Kostelnicka; Massenet's Manon and Thais; the three heroines in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*; the three heroines in Puccini's *Il Trittico*, as well as his *Tosca*, Cio-Cio-San, Mimì, Liù, and Minnie; Verdi's Nannetta, Gilda, Violetta, Amelia Grimaldi, and Lady Macbeth; Poulenc's Thérèse in *Les mamelles de Tirésias* and Elle in *La voix humaine*; Annina in Menotti's *Saint of Blecker Street*; Samuel Barber's Cleopatra in *Antony and Cleopatra*; Shostakovich's Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk; Kurt Weill's Rose and Anna Murrant in *Street Scene*, Polly in *Threepenny Opera*, Jenny in *Mahagonny*, and both Anna I and Anna II in *The Seven Deadly Sins*; and Wagner's Senta and Kundry. Throughout her career, Ms. Malfitano has worked with the world's leading conductors and stage directors.

A champion of 20th-century music, she has sung in the world premieres of Carlisle Floyd's *Bilby's Doll*; Conrad Susa's *Transformations*; Thomas Pasatieri's *Washington Square*, *The Seagull*, *The Family Room*, and *The Martyrs*; and William Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge*, *McTeague*, *A Wedding*, and *Medusa*.

In the summer of 2005 Catherine Malfitano made her debut as a stage director, with a new production of *Madama Butterfly* for the Central City Opera. In the following seasons she also directed new productions of Poulenc's *La voix humaine* for La Monnaie in Brussels, Menotti's *The Saint of Blecker Street* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, again for Central City Opera, *Tosca* for Florida Grand Opera, *Rigoletto* for Washington National, *Don Giovanni* for San Francisco Opera's Merola Program, *Tosca* for English National Opera in London, *Lucia* for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and a new double-bill production of Zemlinsky's *Eine florentinische Tragödie* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* for the Canadian Opera Company.

Since 1998 Ms. Malfitano has been teaching privately, giving master classes worldwide—including her own special course, “Revealing the Actor Singer Within.”

She joined the Manhattan School of Music voice faculty in the fall of 2008, where she teaches voice and acting and directs the Junior Opera Theater. It is a great honor for her to teach at MSM, the conservatory she graduated from in 1971, having performed, as an undergraduate, the following roles: Pamina in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*; Suzel in Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*; Abigail in *The Crucible* by Ward; and Manon Lescaut in *Boulevard Solitude* by Henze.

## Chun-Wei Kang, Music Direction and Pianist

Chun-Wei Kang has performed in concerts both as soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States, Canada, and East Asia. She has appeared on national Taiwanese television in recitals with violinist Long-Long Kang, was broadcast in Japan with soprano Monique McDonald, and appeared on PBS SundayArts in a showcase for rising young opera singers. She has won several awards and scholarships, including the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award for “a musician who demonstrated outstanding professionalism in collaborative piano.”

Ms. Kang has served as staff pianist in the National Music Competition in Taiwan, the Canadian Provincial Festival, the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival, and the International Vocal Arts Institute (New York, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and Montreal). A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music with a Master's degree, Ms. Kang is a faculty member at Manhattan School of Music, OperaWorks, BridgeMusik, and the Manhattan International Music Festival and has been the Assistant Music Director for the New Choral Society since 2008. At MSM, she served as Music Director for the Opera Role Preparation Workshop

directed by legendary mezzo-soprano Mignon Dunn from 2010 to 2017 and was Assistant Music Director for *The Tailor of Gloucester*. In addition, she was Artistic Director for Creative Voice Institute (Taiwan) and Vocal Coach Asia (Singapore) from 2016 to 2019.

Ms. Kang has appeared on many stages, including David Geffen Hall and Carnegie Hall, and has worked with internationally acclaimed masters such as Anne Epperson, Warren Jones, Nico Castel, Marilyn Horne, Paul Nadler, and Joan Dornemann.

## 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 Tabiti*, 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 Eyerly'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*.

## 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.

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