



MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC GRADUATE OPERA THEATRE

GRADUATE OPERA SCENES

Janine Morita Colletti, Director

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 | 7:30 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 | 7:30 PM

ALAN M. AND JOAN TAUB ADES PERFORMANCE SPACE

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MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC GRADUATE OPERA THEATRE

Carleen Graham, Dean | Division of Vocal Arts & Collaborative Piano

GRADUATE OPERA SCENES

Janine Morita Colletti , Director

Joel Harder, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Chun-Wei Kang, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Jinhee Park, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Manuel Arellano, Spanish Diction Coach

Cynthia Gray, Production Stage Manager

Amanda Nirenberg, Assistant Stage Manager

There will be no intermission.

SCENES

Opening Prologue and Trio from

L'incoronazione di Poppea (1643)

Music by Claudio Monteverdi

Libretto by Giovanni Francesco Busenello

Jinhee Park, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Fortune and Virtue quarrel over who rules the world, until the cheeky god of Love interrupts to declare his superiority. The three set our scene, making clear that passion, not reason, will shape the fate of the characters to come.

<i>Fortuna</i>	Vaana Zongxi He
<i>Virtù</i>	Giovanna Mercurio
<i>Amore</i>	Libby Hamilton

“Non ti fidar, o misera” from *Don Giovanni* (1787)

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Chun-Wei Kang, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Donna Anna, reeling from an assault and the murder of her father, seeks justice with her fiancé Don Ottavio. Unbeknownst to them, their supposed ally Don Giovanni is the very culprit, even as he is hounded by his abandoned lover, Donna Elvira.

<i>Donna Anna</i>	Elena Bimbiloska
<i>Donna Elvira</i>	Mengxi Yu
<i>Don Ottavio</i>	Aaron Wei
<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Peiming Cai

Scene 3 Quartet from *Goyescas* (1916)

Music by Enrique Granados

Book by Fernando Periquet

Joel Harder, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Manuel Arellano, Spanish Diction Coach

Rosario rejects Paquiro's flirtations, but her lover Fernando spies on them and assumes she has betrayed him. Their quarrel spirals as Pepa, Paquiro's jealous mistress joins in with mockery, leaving all four caught in jealousy and suspicion.

<i>Rosario</i>	Alexandra Roges
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<i>Pepa</i>	Mina Azad
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<i>Fernando</i>	Ziwei Ren
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<i>Paquiro</i>	Brian Linares
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Act I excerpts from *Orlando* (1733)

Music by George Frideric Handel

Libretto after Carlo Sigismondo Capece

Chun-Wei Kang, Vocal Coach-Pianist

The knight Orlando boasts of his courage and devotion to the princess Angelica, but her heart secretly belongs to the wounded prince Medoro. When Dorinda, a shepherdess also in love with Medoro, discovers their affair, her delight turns to heartbreak, setting in motion Orlando's unraveling.

<i>Orlando</i>	Shuo Wang
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<i>Medoro</i>	André Ferguson
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<i>Dorinda</i>	Eleanor Rees
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<i>Angelica</i>	Sabrina Ontiveros
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“Ah parle encore achève” from *Mireille* (1864)

Music by Charles Gounod

Libretto by Michel Carré

Joel Harder, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Mireille defies her wealthy family by falling in love with Vincent, a poor basket-maker. When Vincent's sister Vincenette brings news that he has been gravely wounded in a violent clash, Mireille resolves to brave the dangerous journey across the Camargue to reach him at Saintes-Maries.

Mireille

Patrycja Posluszna

Vincenette

Sophia Cristina Gorostiza

Act II from *Albert Herring* (1947)

Music by Benjamin Britten

Libretto adapted by Eric Crozier

Jinhee Park, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Lady Billows despairs of finding a virtuous young woman to crown as May Queen, and instead fixes on the painfully innocent Albert. To his embarrassment, he is paraded before the village as May King, awkwardly bearing the burden of enforced purity.

Lady Billows

Baylee Kilgore

Ms. Wordsworth

Sadiyah Babatunde

Emma

Sabrina Ontiveros

Cis

Ana Griffin Morimoto

Harry

Libby Hamilton

Mom

Yilin Wang

Florence

Siqi Liu

Albert Herring

Aaron Wei

Vicar

Juan Angel Johnston-Chavez

Nancy

Mina Azad

Sid

Soo-in We

Mayor

Ian Harris

Superintendent

Brian Linares

OPERA SCENES CAST

Mina Azad (MM antic. '26)

Nancy in *Albert Herring*, Pepa in *Goyescas*
Houston, Texas

Student of Ruth Golden

Sadiyah Babatunde (MM antic. '26)

Ms. Wordsworth in *Albert Herring*

Columbus, Ohio

Student of Cyndia Sieden

Elena Bimbiloska (BM '24,

MM antic. '26)

Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*

Struga, North Macedonia

Student of Catherine Malfitano

Peiming Cai (MM antic. '27)

Don Giovanni in *Don Giovanni*

Zhanjiang, China

Student of Cynthia Hoffmann

André Ferguson (MM antic. '26)

Medoro in *Orlando*

Pensacola, Florida

Student of Sidney Outlaw

Sophia Cristina Gorostiza (BM '24,

MM antic. '27)

Vincenette in *Mireille*

Miami, Florida

Student of Mary Dunleavy

Ana Maria Griffin Morimoto

(MM antic. '27)

Cis in *Albert Herring*

Bronx, New York

Student of Dimitri Pittas

Libby Hamilton (MM antic. '26)

Harry in *Albert Herring*, Amore in

L'incoronazione di Poppea

Summerville, South Carolina

Student of Mary Dunleavy

Ian Harris (MM antic. '26)

Mayor in *Albert Herring*

Gilroy, California

Student of Dimitri Pittas

Vaana Zongxi He (MM antic. '26)

Fortuna in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*

Singapore, Singapore

Student of Susan Quittmeyer

Juan Angel Johnston-Chavez

(PS antic. '26)

Vicar in *Albert Herring*

San Jose, California

Student of Sidney Outlaw

Baylee Kilgore (MM antic. '26)

Lady Billows in *Albert Herring*

Houston, Texas

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Brian Linares (PPD antic. '26)

Superintendent in *Albert Herring*,

Paquiro in *Goyescas*

Sherman, Texas

Student of Mark Schnaible

Siqi Liu (MM antic. '27)

Florence in *Albert Herring*

Tianjin, China

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Giovanna Mercurio (MM antic. '27)

Virtù in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*

Redding, California

Student of Mary Dunleavy

Sabrina Ontiveros (MM antic. '26)

Emma in *Albert Herring*, Angelica in

Orlando

Redlands, California

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Patrycja Posluszna (MM antic. '27)

Mireille in *Mireille*

Brooklyn, New York

Student of Jack Li Vigni

Eleanor Rees (MM antic. '26)

Dorinda in *Orlando*

Huntington, New York

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Ziwei Ren (MM antic. '27)

Fernando in *Goyescas*

Sydney, Australia

Student of Jack Li Vigni

Alexandra Roges (MM antic. '26)

Rosario in *Goyescas*

Trabuco Canyon, California

Student of Ruth Golden

Shuo Wang (MM antic. '26)

Orlando in *Orlando*

Beijing, China

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Yilin Wang (MM antic. '26)

Mom in *Albert Herring*

Beijing, China

Student of Mark Schnaible

Soojin We (MM antic. '26)

Sid in *Albert Herring*

Seoul, South Korea

Student of Christòpheren Nomura

Aaron Wei (MM antic. '26)

Albert Herring in *Albert Herring*, Don

Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*

FuZhou, China

Student of Joan Patenaude-Yarnell

Mengxi Yu (MM antic. '26)

Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*

Beijing, China

Student of Dimitri Pittas

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Janine Morita Colletti, Director

Janine Morita Colletti is a versatile stage director and performer, known for her work in both classical music and theatre. She has directed productions at Manhattan School of Music, Montclair State University, and Arizona State University, and has served on the directing staffs of The Dallas Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, The Atlanta Opera, and Houston Grand Opera, where she will serve as an associate director in 2026.

As a performer, Janine has appeared with Arizona Theatre Company, Prospect Theatre Company, Arizona Opera, and Southwest Shakespeare Company, in addition to various film and television projects.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Ithaca College and a Master's degree in Opera and Musical Theatre Performance from Arizona State University. As a biracial, multi-genre artist, Janine brings a collaborative and story-driven perspective to her work, believing that great storytelling transcends disciplines and empowers performers to become fully embodied artists.

Joel Harder, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Acclaimed Canadian pianist Joel Harder is a sought-after collaborative partner, vocal coach, chamber musician and pedagogue. He has performed nationally and internationally, and featured on WQXR Radio and Medici TV. As an opera pianist, Mr. Harder has worked at Festivals and Houses in France, Canada, and the US, under conductors including James Conlon, Lorin Maazel, and Christoph von Dohnanyi. He is also known for his insightful and sensitive interpretations of Art Song; since 2018, he has been on the artistic roster of the Brooklyn Art Song Society (BASS). Mr. Harder received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano from The Juilliard School, and is currently artistic staff at Manhattan School of Music, and head opera coach at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

Chun-Wei Kang , Vocal Coach-Pianist

Chun-Wei Kang has performed in concerts both as a soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States, Canada, and East Asia. She has appeared on *PBS Sunday Arts* 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/coach in the National Music Competition in Taiwan, the Canadian

Provincial Festival, the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival, the Summer Opera Program in Tel Aviv, and the International Vocal Arts Institute (New York, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and Montreal). She is currently a faculty member at OperaWorks and BridgeMusik. At MSM, Chun-Wei Kang was the Music Director for the Junior Opera Theatre directed by Catherine Malfitano from 2019 to 2022. She also served as Music Director for the Opera Role Preparation Workshop directed by Mignon Dunn from 2010 to 2017, and as Assistant Music Director for *The Tailor of Gloucester*. In addition, she was instrumental in starting two summer music programs in Taiwan and Singapore and served as both artistic director and faculty member from 2016 to 2019.

Jinhee Park, Vocal Coach-Pianist

Pianist and conductor Jinhee Park (PS '19 AD '20) is recognized for her versatility across vocal and instrumental repertoire. With soprano Meredith Wohlgemuth, she won first prizes at the Schubert International LiedDuo 2023 in Dortmund and the Concours International Musical de Montréal 2022 (Art Song Division), also receiving best pianist awards at both competitions.

As a chamber musician, she has served as official pianist for the Concours International Musical de Montréal (Violin, 2023) and the Hudson Valley String Competition, and performs internationally with artists including Stella Chen and Timothy Chooi.

As a conductor, she has worked with the NOI+ Festival Orchestra, Lüneburg Symphoniker, Saratoga Orchestra of Whidbey Island, Wintergarden Festival Ensemble, and a residency with the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey and OAcademy Orchestra Institute in Mexico.

Jinhee holds Master's and Doctorate degrees from The Juilliard School, following studies at Manhattan School of Music and Seoul National University.

Manuel Arellano, Spanish Diction Coach

Pianist/coach Manuel Arellano recently graduated from the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist program at LA Opera. After completing a master's degree in collaborative piano with Martin Katz, he freelanced for a year in Berlin. In 2022, he concluded a doctorate in opera coaching with Tamar Sanikidze at the University of Texas.

Manuel has worked on Carolina Performing Arts' production of Omar and at the Butler Opera International Festival, and has accompanied renowned soprano, Julia Migenes, in concert, as well as Stevie Wonder, and just made his Lincoln Center debut with Key'mon Murrah. He was also a fellow at Wolf Trap Opera, Music Academy of the West, Aspen Opera Theater, and staff at Chautauqua Opera Conservatory.

Cynthia Gray, Production Stage Manager

Cynthia Gray (ze/hir) is an award-winning actor and writer. Hir writing has been published in *Burnt Pine Magazine*, *The Wire Dream Magazine*, and the *Strand Zine*, and hir films have been screened at festivals around the world. Hir short stage play *The Postman's Letter* was produced as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival. Hir previous stage work includes *An Ideal Husband*, *Avenue Q*, *Les Misérables*, and more. Gray has also appeared in various films, TV shows, commercials, and more.

Amanda Nirenberg, Assistant Stage Manager

Amanda Nirenberg is excited to be joining Manhattan School of Music this fall! She received her BFA in Music Theatre from University At Buffalo, having trained in both performance and technical theatre. She has since had the opportunity to work in a variety of technical and designer roles across musical theater and opera. Recent credits include: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Revival Theatre Company), *Next To Normal* (Revival Theatre Company), *The Anonymous Lover* (Finger Lakes Opera), *Rigoletto* (Finger Lakes Opera), and *Three Decembers* (Buffalo Opera Unlimited).

Baker Overstreet, First Props Assistant

Baker Overstreet has been with MSM since 2022 working alongside a very talented team. He received his MFA from Yale University. Aside from exhibiting his own work, he has worked as a prop and scenic artist for many projects in theater, photography, and television.

Chloe Levy, Assistant Costume and Wardrobe Supervisor

Chloe Levy is a New York-based costume designer and technician and is thrilled to be a part of the production team at MSM. She received a BFA in Costume Design and Technology from DePaul University and is a graduate of the Juilliard Professional Apprentice Program. Select design and assistant design credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Public Theater, Hunt's Point Children's Shakespeare Ensemble) *Tammy Faye* (Broadway), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Berlin Opera Academy), *My True Love* (Player's Theatre), *Atalanta* (The Juilliard School), and *Armida* (Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Scenes).

GRADUATE OPERA THEATRE PERSONNEL

Production Staff

Chanel Byas, Production Manager

Keaton Viavattine, Associate Production Manager

Dash Lea, Production Coordinator

Patrick St. John, Production Coordinator

David Philyaw, Lead Technician

Joshua Larrinaga-Yocom, Props Supervisor

Baker Overstreet, First Props Assistant

Lee Lord, Costume and Wardrobe Supervisor

Chloe Levy, Assistant Costume and Wardrobe Supervisor

Lamont Concepcion, Run Crew

OPERA AT MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Manhattan School of Music opera productions have been praised as a significant contribution to operatic life in New York City, and numerous performances have been released as commercial recordings. Opera is a significant feature of the vocal performance experience at MSM. All voice students participate in ensembles, and opera experience is available through a rich variety of opera related programs and courses.

Graduate students develop their artistry under the guidance of eminent artist teachers, while gaining exposure before New York City audiences through the many performance opportunities MSM offers. Productions each year include two full operas with orchestra on the Neidorff-Karpati stage; a new fall opera scenes series; a new fall chamber opera-level production; a fall Opera Workshop to hone audition and professional skills; a new spring Opera in Concert collaboration with the MSM Symphony Orchestra; a workshop of a new work or a workshop performance of a one-act opera; and a Musical Theatre Lab.

Juniors and seniors participate in a fall opera scenes program that explores a wide variety of styles and languages while developing important artistic and collaborative skills. In the spring, they audition to appear in a fully staged production with chamber orchestra, or in a one-act opera or cabaret-style performance with piano.

Carleen Graham, Dean of Vocal Arts

Kristen Kemp, Head of Music in Opera for Vocal Arts

MSM PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

Madeline Lucas Tolliver, Dean of Performance and Production Operations

Performance Operations

Edward Gavitt, Assistant Dean
for Artistic Operations

Jacob Poulos, Performance and Production
Operations Assistant Director

Matthew Ward, Co-Chair and Co-Artistic
Advisor of Contemporary Performance
and Manager of Percussion

Theatrical and Concert Production

Christina Teichroew, Assistant Dean
for Theatrical Production

Matthew J. Stewart, Assistant Dean
for Concert Production

Kathryn Miller, Associate Director
of Theatrical Operations

Stefano Brancato, Associate Director
of Theatrical Design

Chanel Byas, Production Manager

Mariel Sanchez, Production Manager

Josi Petersen Brown, Theatrical
Production Ensembles Manager

Blair Cagney, Theatrical Productions
Administrative Assistant

Hunter Lorelli, Large Ensembles Manager

Logan Reid, Performance and
Production Operations Associate

Raiah Rofsky, Instrumental Ensembles Associate

Lee Lord, Costume and Wardrobe Supervisor

Joshua Larrinaga-Yocom, Props Supervisor

Andres Diaz Jr., Production Supervisor

Tyler Donahue, Assistant Production Supervisor

Pamela Pangaro, Lighting Supervisor

Dash Lea, Production Coordinator

Eric Miller, Production Coordinator

Patrick St. John, Production Coordinator

David Philyaw, Lead Technician

Joshua Groth, Associate Production Manager

Keaton Viavattine, Associate Production Manager

Baker Overstreet, Prop Assistant

Paul Birtwistle, Prop Assistant

Jessie Tidball, Prop Artisan

Chloe Levy, Assistant Costume
and Wardrobe Supervisor

Performance Library

Dr. Manly Romero, Performance Librarian

Clara Cho, Assistant Manager and
Precollege Librarian

Serena Hsu, Performance Library Doctoral Assistant

Jihyun Baik, Performance Library Doctoral Assistant

Jianing Song, Performance Library Doctoral Assistant

Piano Technical Services

Richard Short, Associate Director

Victor Madorsky, Performance Tuner/Technician

Hide Onishi, Chief Concert Technician

Scheduling and Patron Services

Ramon Tenefrancia, Associate Director for Scheduling and Patron Services

Veronica Mak, Patron Services and Artistic Staff Coordinator

Clayton Matthews, Scheduling and Recitals Associate

Gileann Tan, Scheduling and Rentals Associate

The Orto Center for Distance Learning and Recording Arts

Chris Shade, Assistant Dean for The Orto Center

David Marsh, Assistant Director
for The Orto Center

Pat Cupo, Instructional Designer & Interim
Director of Online Programs

for Distance Learning and Recording Arts

Ryan Yacos, Operations Manager
for The Orto Center

Mohit Diskalkar, Network Systems Engineer

Dan Rorke, Chief Recording Engineer

Kevin Bourassa, Recording Engineer

Tyler Neidermayer, Recording Engineer

Bryant Blackburn, Recording Engineer

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 1,000 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 Division is a professionally oriented Saturday music program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of talented young musicians ages 8 to 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 Philanthropy Office at 917-493-4434
or to make an online gift, [scan this code](#)
or visit [giving.msmnyc.edu](#).



Land Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge that we gather as Manhattan School of Music on the traditional land of the Lenape and Wappinger past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.



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